



The National Future Farmer

October-November 1987

Inside: The 1987
National Convention
Celebrating 60 Years of FFA

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In This Issue

October-November, 1987
Volume 36, Number 1



10



12



26

Cover Story

10 *State Presidents Conference*

President Ronald Reagan highlighted a successful State Presidents Conference held in July. On the cover, Kevin Eblen, national FFA president (left) and Jayme Feary, southern region FFA vice president, join the state officers in applauding Reagan after his speech in the White House rose garden. Cover photo by Bill Stagg.

People

12 *Counting Sheep*

Anita Golden lost her flock of registered Dorset sheep to a barn fire but started again.

26 *The Birdman of Benton, Tennessee*

Eric Dalton and his family will raise over a half-million broiler chickens this year.

48 *Part-time Farmers, Full time Professionals*

A current trend is to farm while working at another career. Meet some of the people who are doing it successfully.

FFA Convention

14 *People Get Ready!*

Vice President George Bush, Lee Iacocca and Roger Staubach are featured speakers at the 60th anniversary National FFA Convention.

16 *The Spirit of Agriculture: FFA's Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen*

See what it takes to be in FFA's cream of the crop.

FFA Chapters

28 *Putting the Freeze on Water Waste*

The Crescent City, Florida, FFA is helping preserve its community's water and a vital fern industry.

In Every Issue

- 4 News in Brief
- 6 Mailbag
- 8 Looking Ahead
- 40 Chapter Scoop
- 53 FFA In Action
- 58 Joke Page

The Bottom Line

Commander Robert Rish of the U.S. Navy dropped by the other day on what he described as a "nostalgia trip." He was on his way to take command of an atomic submarine. In 1967-68, Commander Rish was a National FFA Officer from South Carolina on the officer team of President Greg Bamford.

While here, he verified a story I first heard told by Congressman E. (Kika) de la Garza, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. While on a tour of a submarine, the congressman asked the

commander how long could he keep the submarine under water. The reply was "As long as I can feed my crew."

Commander Rish agrees. When asked the same question, he said, "That's right, until I run out of groceries." With all of today's technology, food is still the limiting factor in man's survival. This once again illustrates the importance of agriculture.

The National FFA Convention will be the kickoff for FFA's 60th year. During these years 19,554,034 vocational agriculture students have been members of

the FFA. Over 19 million members—that is a lot of footsteps to follow.

The footsteps of former members lead to many different places. Some are today's top farmers, others hold leadership positions in agribusiness, government and many organizations. They once led to the Oval Office of the President of the United States.

A proud heritage is yours when you join the FFA. A heritage built over 60 years of learning, doing, earning, living and serving. May the next 60 years be as successful. That will depend on you and the footprints you leave for the younger members to follow.

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News In Brief

National FFA Board of Directors Meet

The National FFA Board of Directors met at the FFA Center July 20-23 to decide new organizational policy and review current programs. Here are the highlights of the board's decisions.

The Board reviewed a constitutional amendment submitted by the Iowa FFA Association and determined that it met requirements to be submitted to the delegate body of the 1987 National FFA Convention. The amendment would change the official name of the organization from "Future Farmers of America" to "Future Farmers and Agriculturists," while continuing the option of using the letters "FFA" to designate the name of the organization.

The Board recommended National FFA dues for 1988-89 remain at \$3.00 per member.

The Board passed a motion that called for the "National FFA Board of Directors to adopt the administrative policy of referring to the national organization as the National FFA Organization." This means the national organization will use the letters "FFA" wherever feasible in place of "Future Farmers of America" in its materials and correspondence. This option is provided for in the FFA Constitution and Bylaws.

FFA staff, national officers, board members and consultants were challenged to emphasize and focus on agrimarketing as an important part of high school agriculture and to search for ways to infuse agrimarketing into speeches, articles, conferences, workshops, programs, visuals, supply items and other activities.

But seriously folks ... Looks of concern are commonplace at FFA Board of Directors meetings as Board members discuss, debate and decide policy. Listening to debate during a July session are, left to right, C. Coleman Harris, national executive secretary; Kevin Eblen, national president; and Larry Case, national advisor.



Photo by Bill Stragg

FFA Character to Join "Webster" Cast

The ABC situation comedy "Webster," starring Emmanuel Lewis, Alex Karras and Susan Clark, will introduce a new character this coming year whose background includes membership in the FFA. The character, Brad, played by Corky Nemec, will make his entrance in the show sometime soon.

A script obtained from the show's production company was examined by FFA's Supply Service. According to the script, the 14-year-old character will appear in more than one segment. A specific air-time for the "Hello, Brad" segment is not yet available.

Dodge Caravan Donated

A 1987 Dodge Caravan was donated to the National FFA Organization for use in the coming year. The new Caravan replaced the 1986 model donated last year by Dodge Truck Operations, Chrysler Motors, through the National FFA Foundation.

The vehicle will be used at the FFA Center for shuttling people to and from FFA activities; movement of FFA equipment and supplies and other transportation needs.

Correction

In the August-September News In Brief department, Heritage Farm in Madison, New York was incorrectly referred to as a gardening and recreational facility. It is more accurately a therapeutic rehabilitation center for the learning and physically disabled.

"HOW I MADE \$18,000 FOR COLLEGE BY WORKING WEEKENDS."



When my friends and I graduated from high school, we all took part-time jobs to pay for college.

They ended up in car washes and hamburger joints, putting in long hours for little pay.

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Mailbag

Taking Charge

I am writing to commend you on the
article "Taking Charge" in the June-July,
1987, issue. By using real-life situations,
members learn how to work through
problems and establish solutions in their
home chapter.

Chance Jobe
Romance, Arkansas

Cartoon Criticism

This cartoon (August-September,
1987, page 44) is chauvinistic, insensitive
and not at all funny. It is an insult to
women and a very poor example for
FFA.

Robert Josephy
Bethel, Connecticut



Water Issue

I really appreciated the article per-
taining to ground water ("Water, Water
Everywhere...") August-September,
1987). We continue to become more and
more concerned about the mounting
popularity among consumers and poli-
ticians to restrict the use of farm pesti-
cides. It is becoming an emotional issue
and the time has come for farmers to
take the offense. We truly believe farmers
are ready to deal with the issue and want
to do the right thing. We think it is just
"good business" to practice and support
the conservation and preservation of our
natural resources.

James M. Cornick
Successful Farming
Des Moines, Iowa

Survey Comments Continue

This letter is concerning the varied
responses to the survey in the August-
September issue. I must agree with many
of the comments about the poor ques-
tioning methods used. However, I am
very glad that the FUTURE FARMER
made this survey to see the views of the
FFA members.

Julie Carabia
Knoxville, Tennessee

Chain Saw Safety

I think "Cutting the Danger Out of
Chain Saws" is a great article in the
August-September issue. It's got safety
tips that are really important to know
before handling a chain saw.

Teresa Valdez
Mesa, Arizona

World Agri-Science

I am a member of the Olive FFA and I
just received the FUTURE FARMER
magazine with the item about the World
AgriScience Studies Program. I am most
definitely interested and would be very
grateful to hear more about how I can
get involved.

Joey Fisher
Drumright, Oklahoma

I am very interested in the World
Agri-Science Studies. I have always
dreamed of going to a different country
to study but I never dreamed I could
study agriculture there. I would like to
receive more information.

Melonya Cook
Bradford, Ohio

Good Resource

We greatly appreciate the outstanding
coverage of The National FUTURE
FARMER magazine. The feature arti-
cles, "Chapter Scoop" and "FFA in
Action" are a source of so many useful
ideas. Thanks a bunch for the great job
your staff is doing.

Tim Manges, Reporter
Westmoreland, Kansas

Habla Espanol?

I hope you continue publishing the
magazine, but in the Spanish language
for countries and islands that speak
Spanish.

Blanca Iris
Puerto Rico

Good Job, WCP

I am writing to thank the Washington
Conference Program (WCP) staff for
holding and coordinating the best con-
ference program I have ever experienced.
I also thank the staff of The National
FUTURE FARMER magazine for
advertising, supporting and promoting
the FFA in such an excellent way.

Ernest Cummings
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico

During the WCP I met a lot of great
FFA members, counselors and personnel
at the FFA Center. Before arriving at the
conference I really didn't know why I
was attending and I never really read the
FUTURE FARMER magazine. Now, I
plan to run for state office and read the
magazine thoroughly.

Tim Waterworth
Randolph, Wisconsin

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Looking Ahead

Steers Judged by Ultra-sound

Ultra-sound scanning was used to judge Angus steers in the Registered Angus Steer Show held August 2, at the All-American Angus Futurity. Ultra-sound scanning allows judges to evaluate steers for carcass quality before the steers are slaughtered. Steers were also weighed and measured, and frame score and weight per day of age was calculated.

At the conclusion of each class, a computerized composite placing was calculated using three judges' placings of the classes. One judge, Dr. Harlan Richie, professor of Animal Science, Michigan State University, said that the show demonstrates that new technology enables livestock judges to more accurately evaluate carcass merit of live cattle.

ADAPT 200 To Help Farmers Diversify

Successful Farming magazine has announced its second ADAPT conference or "Ag Diversification Adds Profits Today, 100 ideas for farmers." The ADAPT 2 conference will be held on December 3-4 at the Kansas City Convention Center and will feature 75 speakers on diversification, 100 exhibitors and a Presidential Candidates Forum.

"It has become painfully clear that American farmers can no longer fully rely on traditional crops to make a living," said Richard Krumme, editor. "There are hundreds of high-value crop and livestock opportunities just waiting to be adopted."

During ADAPT 2, farmers will be able to choose from 100 different seminars on diversification ranging from cubing straw into fuel logs, raising ostriches or oysters, growing "baby" vegetables and starting an on-farm bakery. All of the 100 ideas for new profits are in operation now and are the result of American ingenuity and creativity. Farmers will learn the ins and outs of these different ideas from fellow farmers who are using them on their own operation.

To showcase and demonstrate ideas, ADAPT 2 will include a trade show with more than 100 exhibits related to farm diversification.

Successful Farming is again helping farmers with transportation to Kansas

City by coordination carpools and information about Greyhound bus fares and schedules. Krumme said cost should not be a reason for farmers to stay home. If a farmer is unable to pay the registration fee, it will be waived through a scholarship fund. For registration and transportation information call 515/284-2194.

Hay for Software

AG/PAC, a Madison, Wisconsin, based manufacturer of agricultural software will give farmers a free crop software program if they donate hay to northwestern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota farmers whose hay crops have been destroyed by winter kill and drought.

According to Jeff Houden, AG/PAC vice president, "Offering farmers a free software program is not meant to be an incentive to donate hay but rather a 'thank you' for helping fellow farmers in need. In fact, we'll even give a free software program to farmers who have already donated hay. We'll forward the names of all the farmers who contact us to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture who will then make every effort to coordinate transportation of the hay whenever it is feasible."

Farmers who plan to donate hay or have already done so can call AG/PAC toll free at 1-800-US-AGPAC for their "Hay Verification" card to receive the free software program. The software will work on most IBM, Apple or compatible computers.

Belgian Blues New Beef Breed

University Genetics Company (UGEN) of Westport, Connecticut, has imported an initial shipment of 2,000 doses of semen from prize Belgian Blue cattle, an exceptionally lean and tender breed of beef developed through nearly a century of selective breeding in Belgium's central highlands.

"We've just now begun selling it to American ranchers for crossbreeding with Angus, Hereford and other beef and dairy breeds," said Randal C.J. Charlton, chief executive officer of UGEN.

Data compiled by the company reveals that an average 3.5 ounce

serving of the Belgian Blue crossbred beef has 150 calories vs. 198 for chicken. Cholesterol is 60 mg. vs. chicken's 74 mg.

Bad News for Beetles

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed the first hybrid potato plants with their own insect repellent built into their leaves.

As a result of two years of biotechnology research, a team of



scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service fused together single cells from wild and commercial potato plants, then regrew the hybrid plants from the fused cells.

These hybrid potatoes contain a rare gene for leptine, a chemical that repels insects, team leader Stephen L. Sinden said.

"The most devastating pest of U.S. potato fields, the Colorado potato beetle, is repelled by leptine," Sinden said. "The beetles land on the hybrid plants as usual. They peel back a little skin on leaves and nibble, but then fly away. The plants are barely touched."

In recent years, the beetles have developed tolerance to insecticides that farmers continue to spray at an annual cost of over \$120 million. In further tests this summer, it is likely that the hybrid plants will resist some other pests, such as troublesome potato leafhoppers, he said.



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President Reagan meets with 98 state FFA officers, Alumni presidents, state leaders and national officers.

The Presidents Together

By Andrew Markwart

AN address from President Ronald Reagan in the Rose Garden of the White House capped off the 1987 State Presidents' Conference held July 27-31 in Washington, D.C.

In a speech that ranged from trade policy to the acknowledgement of individual FFA members, Mr. Reagan braved the hot July sun to address FFA state presidents, advisors, executive secretaries, Alumni presidents and national officers.

He emphasized his administration's goal of "totally phasing-out all policies that distort trade in agriculture by the end of the century." Using a more urgent timetable, Mr. Reagan said, "Over a 10-year-period, we want to see all of our major trading partners opening the borders, tearing down the barriers and ending the export subsidies for agricultural goods."

In his speech, the president also recognized FFA members Scott Sooy and Don Hayden for their accomplishments in FFA despite their physical handicaps. Sooy is state vice president in Ohio and helps run a 183-acre farm.



The national FFA officers listened closely as President Reagan spoke to the state FFA presidents, leaders and Alumni in the Rose Garden. Below, left to right, are Kevin Eblen, Daren Coppock, Dean Harder, Reagan, Kevin Yost, Jayme Feary and Jones Loffin. At left, Matthew Rekeweg, Indiana state president, Julie Christensen, Iowa state secretary, and Scott Crouch, Indiana state secretary, enjoyed the chance to mingle on the White House south lawn.

Photos by Author



Hayden, former Washington state vice president, partially climbed Mt. Rainier this year. Turning to Hayden, Mr. Reagan said, "Don Hayden's can-do attitude and aggressive lifestyle is a tribute to American spirit. You're encouraging people, through your example, to live life to its fullest. Your family and friends, and your President, are proud of you."

National FFA president Kevin Eblen presented Mr. Reagan with an FFA Blue and Gold award and invited him to national convention.

Visiting the Rose Garden was one of the highlights for the state officers, but it was a week filled with important events. Their conference, titled "Discovering Ideas in Action," was held simultaneously with a national workshop for state advisors and executive secretaries and the state FFA Alumni leaders conference.

The three groups usually met separately but did congregate for certain events. One such event was an Alumni sponsored cookout held at the National FFA Center. It was a casual setting for everyone attending the conferences to get better acquainted.

After dinner, the six national officers drove an FFA customized 1988 full-size Chevrolet pickup to the speaker's podium where it was formally donated from the National FFA Organization to the FFA Alumni Association. The Alumni will auction off the pickup at national convention to raise funds for the association. The pickup had been donated to FFA earlier in the day. Chevrolet sponsored the State Presidents' Conference. Humorous speaker Dr. Carl Hurley "America's Funniest Professor" entertained the crowd later that evening.

Other highlights of the conference included a congressional luncheon on Capitol Hill, a visit with Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, and tours of Washington D.C., Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National FFA Center.

Down to Business

At the heart of the conference were leadership workshops led by national officers Kevin Eblen, Kevin Yost, Daren Coppock, Dean Harder, Jayme Feary and Jones Loflin. The final workshop was an open discussion with state Alumni and education leaders on national FFA issues, primarily those being studied by the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws committee.

The discussion was led by Kip Godwin, 1985-86 national officer and current member of the National Constitution and Bylaws committee. Kip assured those present that the committee would consider the group's remarks as they



Dr. Carl Hurley entertained conference participants during the Alumni cookout at the National FFA Center.

drafted their final report which will be given at the January board of directors meeting.

The combined group discussed several key areas of concern: degree names and requirements; national officers' relationship to board of directors and their duties; FFA's relationship to alumni and collegiate FFA; composition of the regions; kinds of membership; composition of the national board of directors and name of the organization.

Although Godwin assured the group that the name change issue was not number one priority of the committee, it emerged as the topic most actively debated.

Two of the most thought-provoking views of the issue were raised by Scot

Lilly, Virginia state FFA president, and L.H. Newcomb, professor and chairman of agricultural education at The Ohio State University.

Advocating that the organization should keep its name unchanged, Lilly said, "The definition of agriculture has changed, not the organization. Public relations has always been a key part of our organization and (its influence on) the image by which the public perceives us. Our public relations has suffered so that we no longer have that image of the *Future Farmers of America*. It's the responsibility of this organization and every one of its members to make the public understand that agriculture is much more than production."

After Lilly's remarks, Newcomb offered his views from a state agricultural education perspective. Newcomb, himself a former state FFA officer, said a name change would attract a broader base of members.

He asked the state officers, "Do you want this great heritage that has been yours to be available to others? Look at the numbers. We've got something tremendous to offer people. But kids look at farming and they know they can't do it and they don't elect to become members of an organization that says 'we are future *farmers*.' We're not attracting them."

He added, "I feel sorry for those who don't come or stay with us long enough to find that it is more. They are the ones who are cheated. And for us to want to keep it the way it has been at their expense is something, I think, we need to weigh rather heavily."

Jones Loflin concluded the discussion by reminding the officers that they had a responsibility to move the organization ahead as it had been in the past 60 years.



Scot Lilly, Virginia state FFA president, gave his views on the organization's name during a constitution and bylaws discussion.

Anita Golden overcomes tragedy and starts once again,

... Counting Sheep

By Andrew Markwart

IT was like a bad dream. It would be for anyone who raises livestock.

On the morning of February 28, 1986, Anita Golden woke up on her seventeenth birthday only to find that her flock of 36 registered Dorset sheep had perished in a barn fire during the night.

It had been a cold winter's night on Anita's farm near Arthur, Tennessee, so the entire flock had gathered in the barn to keep out of the snow and stay warm. But somewhere between midnight and dawn, a short in the barn's electrical wiring started the blaze. Since the sheep barn was situated behind a hill out of vision from the Golden's house, the smoldering ashes were not detected by Anita's father, Wayne, until the next morning.

Anita's FFA advisors Wade Breeding and Dan Pearman offered what comfort they could, but it was difficult. "I went over the next morning to talk to her, and it was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do," Pearman said. "She was heartbroken."

The Dorsets had been Anita's prime focus in her supervised occupational experience program and had done exceptionally well with them at fairs and livestock shows including district grand champion in both 1983 and 1984. Hers was one of the few Dorset flocks in the area.

That was a full year-and-a-half ago. Now Anita has built her flock back up to 20 Dorsets who live in a newly renovated barn. In the meantime, Anita won the 1986 southern region FFA sheep proficiency award for her work with the original 36 sheep. She has also received the national FFA gold merit for showmanship for national judging contests at the time of the national convention in Kansas City.

Begin Again

Although she enjoys working with her flock now, it wasn't easy for her to start again. "It was tough. I really thought about not starting over," said Anita. "It crosses your mind—'What if this happens again?' But we have a saying around here: 'You can't lose if you don't have.' I still worry sometimes in the middle of the night. I'll wake up and look out the window to make sure they're all right."

Besides tending to her own flock, Anita is also a 50 percent partner in a flock of 100 Hampshire sheep with advisor Pearman—who also happens to be her first cousin. Anita's responsibilities are mainly in feeding and managing the flock. Profits are split 50-50 after expenses.

Anita has been keeping her sheep records using a Commodore 64 computer, an activity that led her to be named Tennessee's Computers in Agriculture winner in 1986. She was president of the Powell Valley FFA Chapter both junior and senior years of high school and was the first female to complete four years of the production agriculture curriculum.



Photo by Author

Anita Golden's Dorsets were a strong supervised experience program for her and an important part of her FFA involvement. The challenges of her SOE led her to discover a whole new dimension in agriculture—computer record keeping, leadership and career exploration.

She graduated third out of a class of 103 students this spring.

This fall Anita is attending the University of Tennessee where she is majoring in food technology—a selection prompted, she says, by the appealing career opportunities and good placement after graduation.

With college and a promising career field in her future, Anita Golden's involvement with sheep will surely lessen, but her memory will always be filled with fairs and grand champions and that one tragic night on the eve of 17. ●●●



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Roland M. Hendrickson
President, Pfizer Agricultural Division

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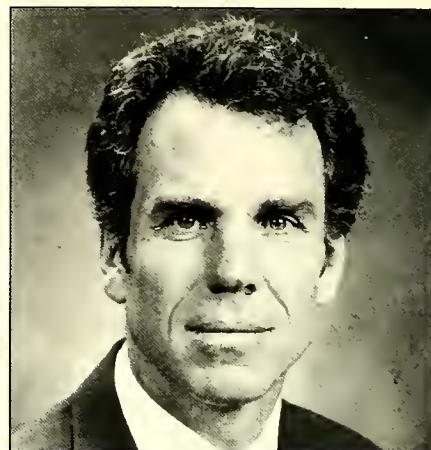
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Roger Staubach

People Get Ready!

Excitement builds for 60th National FFA Convention

WHAT may be the most impressive line-up of speakers ever to address a National FFA Convention has been assembled to kick off FFA's 60th anniversary.

Vice President George Bush, Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca, former Dallas Cowboy quarterback Roger Staubach and Secretary of Education William Bennett will speak to an estimated 22,000 FFA members, advisors, sponsors and guests at the 60th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, November 12-14.

Staubach, recent Football Hall of Fame inductee and former Heisman Trophy winner, will speak at the first convention session Thursday morning, November 12, in the Municipal Auditorium. Vice President Bush will bring comments from the Reagan administration at the second session starting at 2 p.m., Thursday. Secretary Bennett will also speak during the second session.

The day's finale will be the third convention session when Lee Iacocca, chairman and chief executive officer of the Chrysler Corporation, will address the convention at 8 p.m. The "Stars Over America Pageant" will be featured after Iacocca's speech. The eight Star Farmer and Agribusinessmen stories will be shown on film this year, the first time since 1978.

Nationally-renowned speakers aren't the only excitement planned for this year's convention. There's national judging contest finals, naming of national proficiency winners, national extemporaneous and public speaking finals, selection of the 1987-88 National FFA Officers and much more.

Once again, the National Agricultural

Career Show will be filled with exhibits from major corporations, colleges and universities, and state FFA associations. The Career Show also features computer work areas for exploring the Ag Ed Network and software programs through FFA's ACCESS service.

Alumni

The National FFA Alumni Convention will be held Wednesday, November 11, in room 209, Bartle Hall. Highlights include speaker Ed Johnson of the WBN Agri Broadcasting Network in Ohio, award presentations, installation of new officers, and the Alumni auction fundraiser, scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m.

A special item to be auctioned off will be a 1988 full-size, 1 2-ton, dark blue Chevrolet pickup truck complete with gold striping and FFA emblem. The buyer of the truck will be asked to designate \$1,000 of the auction's proceeds to a local FFA chapter, state association, Alumni Association or any one of the family of agricultural education organizations.

The Alumni will also hold their popular leadership workshops for FFA members and advisors November 12 and 13. This year's workshops, sponsored by Land O'Lakes, will feature former FFA presidents Rick Malir and Steve Meredith.

Banquets and Buffets

A number of special meal functions have been planned for convention. The National FFA Alumni Banquet will be held November 11, 4:30 p.m., Bartle Hall, Room 213. Everyone is invited and

tickets are \$10 each.

A new National Chapter Recognition Luncheon will be held November 12, 12 noon, in Bartle's Grand Hall. Each national bronze, silver and gold emblem chapter will receive one complimentary ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$10 each.

Buffet serving lines for the American Farmer Luncheon will open at 11:30 a.m., November 13. FFA members can join American Farmer degree recipients and their advisors, families and friends for the luncheon which will feature a major convention speaker. Tickets are \$10.

Chapter and state FFA officers and past Washington Conference Program participants are all invited to the National Leadership Dinner, November 13, 5 p.m., Bartle Grand Hall. Tickets are also \$10.

Checks payable to National FFA Organization may be sent to FFA Convention Meals, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA, 22309. Deadline is October 15. Tickets must be picked up in Bartle Hall lobby at convention.

American Royal Rodeo

The American Royal, longtime supporters of FFA in Kansas City, are offering FFA members top-flight entertainment at a discount price during convention. Members will receive a \$2 discount off selected American Royal rodeo tickets for shows running from November 11-14. Featured performers this year are Janie Fricke, November 11; Sawyer Brown, November 12; Sweethearts of the Rodeo, November 13 and Charley Pride, November 14. Ticket prices range between \$4-10. ●●●

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The Spirit of Agriculture: FFA's Star Farmers, Agribusinessmen

MEET the eight FFA members who have been named regional Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen from among 728 members who earned American Farmer degrees this year. They will compete for the Stars over America honor at the upcoming National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, this November.

Young farmers, businessmen, FFA members all: Each excel in different areas of agriculture, yet all hold one thing in common: a dedication to bettering themselves, their family, their farms and businesses, and their communities.

The extra mile pays off **Dan Ruehling**

Dan Ruehling learned early in life that good customer service pays off. At age 21, he runs a profitable milk hauling business southwest of Minneapolis near Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Key to his success are satisfied customers, he says.



Central Region Star Agribusinessman
Dan Ruehling

"If a farmer has trouble, I'll help him finish milking or if cows need some feed, I'll feed them," Ruehling says. "Some haulers think that they are doing the farmer a big favor by hauling. But I think that it's going the extra mile for my customers that makes a big difference in my business."

While in FFA, Ruehling's net worth has gone from less than \$1,000 to over \$70,000. With no financial assistance from his family, he went from working part-time for farmers to hauling 70,000 pounds of

milk daily in his own truck.

Working on farms through the Belle Plaine vocational agriculture/FFA program helped Ruehling learn what his future customers would want and need. He worked for two area dairy farmers early in high school. Even when he got his driver's license and became a relief driver for a milk hauler, Ruehling continued to work on a dairy farm and attend high school.

Following graduation from high school, Ruehling bought a truck, tank, and his route using money from savings and a bank loan. Last year Ruehling traded his first truck and tank for a new International diesel and a larger 3,250-gallon tank. This past spring he bought a house and 11 acres. Not only does the farmstead serve as a base for his business, it also gives Ruehling a chance to finish a few steers.

Optimistic despite tough times **Jeffrey Simmons**

Jeffrey Simmons beams with optimism. Even when he's talking about the hard luck farm economy. "I treat these tough times as a challenge, not a tragedy," says the 20-year-old Penn Yan, New York, FFA member.



Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman
Jeffrey Simmons

Simmons, who earned a junior college ag business degree before transferring to Cornell University this fall, is all bottom-line, hard-core businessman. "Being a businessman takes precedence over being a farmer," he says. He first became fasci-

nated with business as a 10-year-old, raising chickens and selling eggs to neighbors and friends. He performed odd jobs in his dad's office at the 282-acre family farm, which features a 120-acre vineyard.

As a high school freshman at Penn Yan Academy, Simmons opened a roadside fruit stand and drained his savings so he and his brother could buy a five-acre abandoned vineyard. Simmons boosted grape yield from 1.6 tons per acre in 1981 to 5.6 tons per acre in 1986. The roadside stand soon multiplied to three stands, selling mostly table grapes and vegetables.

Simmons found a dried flower company which offered to buy grape brush to make decorative wreaths. "It used to be an expense to get rid of that old vine. Now I'm turning it into a profit," he says. The family sells from 18 to 44 tons of grape brush per year this way.

He recently received his broker's license so he can purchase grapes from neighboring farmers, increasing marketing power. One of his future goals is to eventually start a wholesale produce operation.

Trading hay pays off **Scott Standridge**

If you want to buy hay, sell hay, or just ask about hay, see Scott Standridge. Chopped or baled, hay is his business. But if it hadn't been for his love of cattle, the 20-year-old FFA member from Lindsay, Oklahoma, may never have begun work as a hay broker two years ago.

As a freshman at the Lindsay FFA chapter, Standridge became interested in Brangus cattle. He bought his first heifer and in 1982, he and his father made their first trip to Texas to look for more cattle. There, Standridge purchased a heifer, later named 1983 National Junior Grand Champion Female. (He later sold 5/6 interest in the animal for \$20,000.)

Standridge came up with the idea of working as a hay broker in 1984 after talking to Texas ranchers affected by a severe drought. "They couldn't get any hay," he says. "A lot of people called me who needed hay for their cattle. We had the hay here, so we started selling it."

By the following year he had decided to jump into hay sales full time. He sold over 315 tons of hay in 1984, and increased

sales to over 7,300 tons by 1986. Today Standridge has a growing hay business and a large network of contacts. Standridge knows what he can buy hay for, where he



**Western Region Star Agribusinessman
Scott Standridge**

can get it, where he can sell it, and what kind of profit he can make—usually at a moment's notice.

"The thing I really like about it is that I work for myself," he says. "I enjoy the independence." He plans to continue developing his hay sales business and may branch into hay production someday and purchase a few acres.

Cruising timber for profit
Phillip Willis

While other high school students were cruising Main Street, Phillip Willis was cruising timber.



**Southern Region Star Agribusinessman
Phillip Willis**

But unlike the others, Willis was getting paid for checking out what he saw. He figures the percentage of timber that his family's logging business near Philadelphia, Mississippi, can cut, and notes the

quality, quantity and grade of wood. Willis started working on an hourly basis for his father, Harold, when he was 10 years old. Now at the age of 20 he owns one half of the business. He plans to take the business over when he graduates from Mississippi State University in 1989. As a member of the Neshoba Central FFA Chapter, Willis kept records on his work at the logging company. His net worth grew to \$139,761 since his freshman year in high school. He says public relations is one of the most important skills he's learned in FFA. "I'm better at dealing with big companies like Weyerhaeuser and other major wood industry firms," he says. "You've got to work with them and be flexible enough to know what they want and anticipate changes."

Focused on the future
Franklin Howey, Jr.

Franklin Howey, Jr., a 20-year-old from Monroe, North Carolina, is a farmer who takes the future seriously. "I am preparing myself, home and farming operation now for the next century," he says. "I want to be prepared to meet all of the opportunities of the twenty-first century."



**Eastern Region Star Farmer
Franklin Howey, Jr.**

With the help of his personal computer he hopes to someday predict rainfall within a five-mile radius of his farm. Unlike those who use irrigation systems, Howey's ground is scattered and it lacks a good water source.

That might sound farfetched. But it was that same forward thinking which helped Howey put together a farming operation comparable to those owned by farmers with many more years experience. Howey's operation includes 1,200 acres of double crop soybeans, 650 acres wheat, 60 acres oats, 260 acres grain sorghum, 5 acres

of fruits and vegetables and 66 head of cattle. During his years as a member of the Sun Valley FFA chapter, his net worth has grown more than \$260,000. "As a farmer I'm many things: agronomist, mechanic, veterinarian; but mostly, I'm a businessman," he says. "I think the business part of farming is very important. A lot of people can drive a tractor, but if they can't market the product they grow, their business may not be here tomorrow." Now a senior at North Carolina State University, Howey will continue working towards his bachelor's degree in agronomy, then return to Monroe to pursue farming full time. *Lofty goals, new beginnings*
Michael Porter

Michael Porter, Fennimore, Wisconsin, dreams of the day his 110-cow dairy herd will produce a 19,000-pound herd average. And with the help of a computer, the 21-year-old FFA member might reach his goal sooner than he thinks.

Porter purchased his family's 318-acre dairy farm from parents George and Beverly Porter, in December 1986—one month after he married his wife Nancy. He manages 110 head of dairy youngstock along with the cow herd. Porter's parents now live on a neighboring beef farm.

Porter started raising hogs with his brother at age eight. In 1977, he bought his first calf, which soon became a bona fide milk cow. He used milk checks to reinvest in more cows and by 1985 he and his father



**Central Region Star Farmer
Michael Porter**

had established a 50-50 partnership in the dairy. Porter says one way he'll make production goals is through better feed rations. He gets help from his Germania Scoop II

(Continued on Page 18)

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Stars

(Continued from Page 17)

computerized feeding system. He programs it to balance feed rations for each cow according to production and lactation position. He estimates the computer helped him use 23 percent less corn and increase milk production by 3,000 pounds per cow.

His goals include purchasing a neighboring farm someday. "I'd like to be able to grow more crops so I have less dependence on feed purchases," he explains.

Ambition knows no bounds Barry McWilliams

Barry McWilliams' ties to agriculture run deep—four generations deep. His 94-year-old great grandfather, C. N. Armour, road horseback into Tennessee with little more than a bandana and a hatful of dreams.

It was McWilliams' great grandfather's dream to own land. That heritage, plus his own ambition, have played an instrumental part in the 20-year-old FFA member's success.



Southern Region Star Farmer
Barry McWilliams

McWilliams, from Halls, Tennessee, started farming with less than 100 acres and a handful of cattle. But by 1986, his farming operation had swelled to over 3,600 acres, 2,100 which he actively farms. He grows 6 different crops, raises 95 cattle and 9 horses.

"I believe the key to success is in diversity," he says. "That's why I plant many different crops and manage both a commercial and purebred cattle operation."

McWilliams is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, double majoring in animal science and ag business. He attends college during winter and spring

quarters, but stays out in fall to help with harvest and other chores.

Leadership & farming go together Lyle Blakley

It's not every FFA member who can give a speech before the state legislature and have the governor proclaim a day in their honor.

But then, Lyle Blakley, of Oologah, Oklahoma, is no ordinary young man, either. He was born into an FFA family—his dad was a state officer and American Farmer, his mother an FFA sweetheart. So far, the 20-year-old's life has been centered around the family's 1,200-acre crop and diversified livestock farm, and his FFA leadership activities.

Blakley began his vo-ag experience with 63 head of beef, 151 head of swine and several acres of crops. By 1986 he had expanded to 240 head of cattle and 916 head of hogs, along with added crops responsibility. He earned a national FFA proficiency award in crop production.

One business move that helped Blakley's livestock operation is a unique contract to receive waste bakery products from a nearby firm. He tested and developed cattle and hog rations made from discarded loaves of bread and dough. "This one thing alone has cut feed costs as much



Western Region Star Farmer
Lyle Blakley

as 75 percent on as many as 2,000 head of livestock," says Blakley.

Blakley is majoring in agricultural economics with a pre-law option at Oklahoma State University. He expects to graduate by the spring of 1988, and return to the farm or enter law school. ***

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No Secrets:

The New National Officer Selection Process

THERE was a time, not too long ago, when the national FFA officer nominating committee met in secrecy to select their six nominees. It was thought that being secret was a means of being fair; it was actually a breeding ground for myths and misunderstandings.

But in 1984, the National FFA Board of Directors decided it was time to change the process to make it a more positive learning experience for the candidates. They called for a study concentrating on the selection, election, training and utilization of national officers.

The result is a selection process that stresses knowledge of agriculture, education, human development and FFA information, according to Arnold Cordes, executive director of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and chairman of the National Officer Election Committee. "We felt it should be an educational process for these candidates," said Cordes. "Our attempt is to closely relate the interview questions with the experiences they would have as national officers. We've strongly de-emphasized the FFA trivia area."

The remainder of the committee was comprised of Rosco Vaughn, New Mexico FFA state advisor; Eldon Witt, Illinois state FFA executive secretary and Rob Hovis, Ohio state FFA executive secretary.

Cordes said that national officers are asked throughout the year to speak with everyone from FFA members to school administrators to the secretary of agriculture. He says a new interview process accomplishes two objectives; it surfaces the best-informed and most articulate candidates and educates them in the process.

Included in the interview process are a new written exam, a set of criteria more strongly emphasizing supervised occupational experience (SOE) programs and a more relaxed interview schedule at national convention. Although the interviews themselves are intense, there is time built into the candidates' week to enjoy the convention. The interviews count for 50 percent of the candidates' final score. Candidates will receive their scorecards back after the final selection



The 1987 national officers selected using the new process.

to see where their strong and weak points were and how they placed in their region.

Explaining the new emphasis on SOE programs, Cordes said, "The SOE program is important because the national officers need that experience to relate to the members well." It counts for 25 percent of the candidate's score, as does the written test.

Knowledge of agriculture and SOE's emphasized in revised interviews and written tests

A key factor in the new selection process is the preparation candidates get before they ever head to Kansas City for the final interviews. There is a new "Guide to Developing Effective Leadership and Preparing Candidates for National FFA Office" which is included in the National FFA Guide to FFA Activities.

The guide is filled with pertinent background information and preparation techniques so candidates can pre-

pare as much as they want in their home state. The guide covers topics such as FFA's role in vocational agriculture, important facts about FFA, the FFA Foundation, and Alumni. It also includes problem situations national officers may encounter in their term, tips on using various types of interview situations and a detailed breakdown of the point system used during the final interviews.

Candidates are even given a "cheat sheet" of sorts to help them with the written test. They receive the actual written exam from the previous year so they know what types of questions will be asked.

This will be the second year for the full process to be used since it began a phase-in period starting in 1985. Revisions in the process will continually be updated. Cordes said that recommendations on improving the selection process will go to the national board of directors each year.

In the end, concludes Cordes, "We may end up with the same six officers, but now we have a process that everyone can scrutinize and the candidates can learn more from." ...

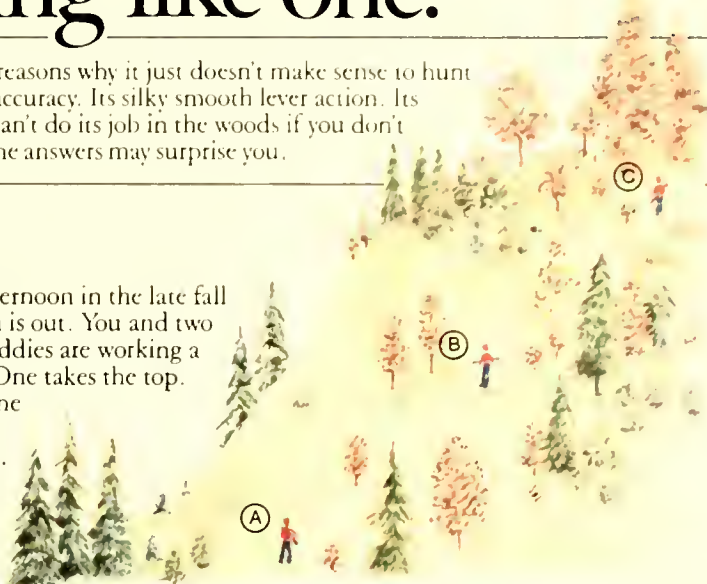
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1 A hunter takes up a position next to a prime runway. One week later, he takes up the same position but sets up a small brush pile to better conceal himself. Did the brush pile give him a better chance of spotting a deer?

3 It's early afternoon in the late fall and the sun is out. You and two hunting buddies are working a wooded ridge. One takes the top. Another takes the bottom. You take the middle. Which one of you has the best chance of spotting a deer—A, B or C?



4 You come across a small, noisy brook. Should you, A) ignore it and move on, B) parallel its course so its natural sound will cover the noise of your movement, C) still hunt along the downwind side.

2 It's 11 o'clock in the morning and you come across the intersection of two woods trails. Most hunters in the area will be coming out for lunch within the hour. You stand a good chance of spotting a deer, A) about

200 yards between the intersection and the main trail, B) in the laurel between the two secondary trails, C) at the edge of the clearing just to the right of the intersection.

5 Just about every hunter knows that morning and late afternoon are prime time deer hours. True or false — it's a waste of time to hunt during mid-day when deer are moving less and more likely to bed down.

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Answers: 1. Not really. Deer have very poor vision and are unlikely to spot you unless you move. 2. (B). During mid-day, deer prefer to see heavy cover. 3. (B). Most deer prefer the side of a ridge, where they can keep an eye on several avenues of approach. Also, on a sunny slope, wind generally moves uphill, warning Hunter A's scent and driving the deer up to Hunter B. 4. (A). Deer aren't stupid. They rarely go near an area that would allow an enemy to approach undisturbed. 5. (False). Most deer move several times during mid-day, especially during hunting season. Send \$2.00 for our full color poster with 15 hunting quizzes.

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Ericksons Take A Bow

Reunion for Past Talent Participants Planned

By Jeri D. Mattics

The house lights are down and a small group of FFA members are on the spotlight stage belting out a familiar tune. On stage, you can't see much other than the blinding beam of white light that pours over your group. Yet, without seeing the audience, you know the musical message is connecting.

Electricity fills the air as you join clapping in unison with 16,000 FFA members, advisors, supporters and guests. When the musical number is over and you stop clapping, you notice your hands are numb but your face is smiling.

FOR hundreds of FFA members, the excitement of performing at the National FFA Convention has been an

experience they will cherish for a lifetime. Providing those experiences is what the National FFA Talent program, co-directed by Don and Martha Erickson, is all about.

When Don started helping Osborne Arlien, a national officer and former student, prepare for his performance at the 21st National FFA Convention in 1948, he had no idea he would become a 39-year veteran with the national talent program. During that time, Erickson taught vocational agriculture in North Dakota for 29 years and then served as state supervisor of agricultural education and North Dakota's FFA advisor for 13 years. He retired from both positions in 1982 to devote more time to the talent program and his speaking engagements.



Martha and Don Erickson will say farewell to the FFA talent program after this year's convention.

Photo by Bill Stagg

Don's wife, Martha, joined the talent program as co-director in 1981 and, as Don explains, "The talent *show* became a talent *program*. Until she joined, it was a once-a-year show. Now, the program



has become a year-round job with 120-130 students participating annually."

Each year the Ericksons answer over 500 letters asking for information about the talent program. "The correspondence is a bit overwhelming. I don't know what we'd do without computer word processing," Martha noted.

The Ericksons thoroughly enjoy their part in the talent program. "Talent and FFA seem to go together. We work for the best doggone kids in the nation," Don said as he reminisced over years past. "It's a labor of love. We like the kids and we like the job. We wouldn't have missed it for the world."

In addition to providing entertainment during convention sessions and at the Career Show, the talent program sends performers all over Kansas City. Martha orchestrates a schedule that assigns talent participants to perform at FFA-sponsored meal functions, including the nine judging breakfasts, Kansas City service club meetings and daily shows at Crown Center during the convention.

The job doesn't end when the Ericksons leave Kansas City each fall. They receive and accommodate requests throughout the year. Past talent participants have performed at BOAC conferences and National FFA Foundation sponsors' sales meetings.

Several past participants have launched careers from their talent program beginnings. Jimmy Melton, a professional country bluegrass musician with three albums and an appearance at the Grand Ole Opry under his belt, has performed onstage in Kansas City every year since 1981. Bobby McLamb, a country comedian with Loretta Lynn's stage show, began making people laugh at the National FFA Convention. Also, members of the touring gospel group "Sweet Success" performed at several National FFA Conventions.

Past national officers have also participated in the talent program. Coby Shorter spent three years as convention organist before being elected 1985-86 National FFA Secretary. Scott McKain emceed the Career Show talent program prior to being elected 1974-75 national secretary.

After 39 years, the Ericksons have opted to retire from their positions with the talent program in order to concentrate on other interests, namely, Don's speaking engagements.

As a way of saying farewell to all past talent program participants, the Ericksons are hosting a reunion at the 60th National FFA Convention. The reunion will be Thursday, November 12, at 8 p.m., Room 600, Municipal Auditorium. All past talent program participants are invited to attend. As a part of the reunion, several past participants will perform. ●●●



More than 120 talent participants entertain FFA members, advisors and guests every year at convention.



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LIVE THE ADVENTURE



These were the delegates to the first National FFA Convention in 1928.

FFA: The First 10 Years

The first of six articles on the history of FFA during the 60th anniversary year.

By Wilson Carnes

FARMERS did not have an easy life in 1928. Fewer than 10 percent of the farm homes had running water. Electricity was just as scarce. Energy for farm work was provided by horses and mules, and the farm family most often toiled in drudgery.

And yet, from this environment, came a generation of youth who said "I believe in the future of farming...."

The Future Farmers of America was formally organized on November 20, 1928, at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

But the real story of FFA begins in 1917 with the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act. Prior to that time, several states had programs offering agricultural instruction in high schools. However, the Smith-Hughes Act provided for the establishment of programs of education in agriculture for students in high school, for out-of-school young farmers and for adult farmers. The major purpose of the instruction was to improve their efficiency in farming. The bill's sponsors, Senator Hoke Smith and Senator Dudley M. Hughes, were both from Georgia. By 1922, all 48 states offered courses in high school agriculture.

Many of these students began to form corn clubs, pig clubs and other groups. They operated under various names and some had even developed state organizations.

Before youth organizations began to develop, livestock judging contests were popular events among vocational agriculture classes. Judging contests proved so popular that a strong movement developed for national contests. In May of 1926, Dr. C. H. Lane, who was chief

of the U.S. Agricultural Education Service, went to Kansas City looking for a site for the national contest. He was warmly received by officials of the American Royal Live Stock and Horse

Show and there was established in November of 1926 the first of a long series of the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students, forerunner of the National FFA Convention.

By 1927, there was much talk of a national organization for students of vocational agriculture. The movement was strong in several states and was being seriously discussed in regional conferences by both state and national leaders in agricultural education.

At the pacific regional conference held April 30 to May 5, in Denver, Colorado, Dr. W. T. Spanton, who was later to serve as national advisor, said, "I cannot too heartily endorse the student organization idea...Personally, I have been most impressed with the constitution, bylaws, admission requirements and so forth, of the association in the state of Virginia, known as the FFV, or the Future Farmers of Virginia. The name 'Future Farmer' is catchy and appropriate and if a strong national organization could be established, what would be a more appropriate name than 'FFA' or 'Future Farmers of America'?"

Letters of incorporation were drawn up and the Future Farmers of America received a charter under the corporate laws of Virginia, dated September 5, 1928.

The first national convention of FFA was held at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 20, 1928, in conjunction with the American Royal Live Stock Show and the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students. Eighteen states were represented by 33 official delegates.

During the next ten years, the FFA grew rapidly and established several activities, some of which are continued today. ●●●

Milestones

1928-FFA dues were set at 10 cents.

1929-First Star Farmer of America named.

1930-Official FFA Creed and colors were adopted.

First National Public Speaking contest was held.

Official manual first published in printed form.

1931-National FFA radio program was started as a part of the Farm and Home Hour.

The United States Army Band was secured for the radio series.

1933-J. A. Linke replaced Dr. Lane as National FFA Advisor.

Delegates to the national convention voted to adopt an official jacket of blue corduroy.

1934-National FFA Day was established.

1937-First national convention held in the Municipal Auditorium.

About 6,000 members, advisors and friends were present.

FFA membership reached 143,702 in 4,896 chapters.

Convention delegates authorized in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., a suitable site for a national FFA camp (now the National FFA Center).

For more on the early history of FFA, see the book FFA at 50 available from the National FFA Supply Service. Price \$5 plus shipping and handling. See 1987-88 Supply Service catalog, page 25

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Photo by Author

Peep show...Eric Dalton has his hands full raising 600,000 broiler chickens this year.

The Birdman of Benton, Tennessee

Specialization and efficiency are the keys to this broiler producer's success.

By Andrew Markwart

A DUSTY, white school bus rumbles down the gravel driveway that bends past Eric Dalton's house. It's old-fashioned styling and obvious road miles hint that it has been a long time since rowdy school kids rode this bus. Today it

is full of broiler chicks and it's time for Eric and his family to spring into action.

They have been waiting all day for the chick delivery—which is later than normal—from a ConAgra hatchery and the chicks have to be unloaded quickly.

The 90-plus degree heat from this hot day in Benton, Tennessee, is taking its toll on the young birds. Eric, 18, and his father, Dwight, and mother Linda, unload the peeping masses almost mechanically in the cooler shade of a chicken house.

"Chick Day" comes around seven times a year. Depending on the time of year, about 85,000 chicks are left in the hands of the Daltons. By the end of this year, Eric and his family will have raised close to 600,000 broiler chickens.

Eric, the 1986 national poultry proficiency winner, is a 25 percent partner in the family chicken finishing operation. The Daltons sell their birds under direct contract with ConAgra. The company supplies the chicks to be raised, all necessary feed, a fieldman (Jimmy Dalton, no relation) for technical support and transportation of the chickens to the processing plant (in Dalton, Georgia, no family connection) once the birds are fully grown.

Specialists

The Daltons are, in effect, grower specialists in today's highly specialized poultry industry. Working with a large company like ConAgra may have its drawbacks, but Eric sees mostly benefits. "When we first started raising broilers, it took ten weeks to finish a bird. Now it takes us exactly six weeks and two days to raise a 3.7 pound bird," he explains. "They sink millions of dollars into genetic research every year, and that, in the end, helps us make more money."

Two other factors have also allowed Eric to make more money. He has been able to cut the mortality rate in half since he first started and his feed efficiency has improved from 1.8 pounds of feed per one pound of chicken to 1.648 pounds of feed. With less chickens dying and then eating more efficiently, the arrangement is paying off nicely.

Of course, no matter how efficient Eric's birds are, when you're raising over a half-million broilers a year, there is bound to be plenty of chicken manure, or, "litter" leftover. And what does one do with that much litter? "We sell it to the Monteray Mushroom Company and make \$100 profit off each load," says the entrepreneur.

In fact, last year, the Daltons cleared around \$30,000 profit (of which Eric gets

a 10-percent cut) for hauling chicken litter to the mushroom facility.

Eric's father has a contract with the company to haul his own and 24 other local producers' chicken litter. With Mr. Dalton on the road 24 days out of the month, much of the chicken production responsibilities have been delegated to Eric.

Besides Eric's reputation as a major poultry producer, he is also well respected as a sheep herder. The shelves in his living room are heavy with trophies and plaques from livestock shows and fairs. "I average about 13 fairs a year and

grooming) for people who want to show the animals but don't know how to raise them.

He keeps his financial records on a Commodore 64 computer, but until recently, wasn't happy with the available software for sheep, so he developed his own. Now other sheep breeders are asking for it.

This fall, Eric turned down what amounted to a full-ride scholarship

offered by the college of agriculture at Tennessee Tech University to manage their sheep flock. Eric decided instead to stay on the family farm. The 1987 Star Farmer of Tennessee says he felt the chicken business and the fledgling sheep herd he has been building since seventh grade would suffer in his absence. He does not count out the possibility though, that next fall he could be busy with college classes. ...

"Eric is no longer looking for buyers... Now buyers are looking for him."

—Advisor Clay Swartout

made about \$4,000 showing last year," says Eric. As a sophomore, the Polk FFA Chapter member placed 13th in the national FFA livestock judging contest in Kansas City. He has also earned a national gold emblem in sheep showmanship there.

He is currently full owner of 134 Suffolk ewes, which, according to Eric's FFA Advisor Clay Swartout, he will have no trouble selling if he desires. "Eric is no longer looking for the buyers," he says. "Now the buyers are looking for him." He sells the sheep at breeding sales in Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. Eric also supplements his income by "fitting" sheep (feeding and

About 20,000 chicks are left in each of Eric's four chicken houses seven times a year.



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Fern grower Lee Morris, left, talks fern production with members of the Crescent City FFA Chapter in a fernery shade house. Photo by Author

Putting the Freeze on Water Waste

This FFA chapter is helping conserve water and a vital fern industry.

By Al Krombach

THE Florida tourism industry might convince some folks it never gets cold in the Sunshine State, but they won't have much luck with Kenny Noble.

Kenny, 17, spent one of the coldest nights of his life outdoors in a central Florida fernery last winter with his FFA chapter Advisor David Brown and university researcher Dr. Bob Stamps. As the mercury plunged and a variety of sprinklers spritzed water over an acre of newly-turned earth, the three shivered, checked a battery of instruments—and hoped for even colder temperatures.

It was all in the name of science and it marked the beginning of a unique, co-operative water conservation study involving farmers, educators and governmental agencies, a study that's primarily the responsibility of the 30-member Crescent City FFA Chapter, Kenny said.

"Using the data we collect, we'll be able to demonstrate ways for fern growers to cut down on the amount of water they use while protecting their crops from freezing. That'll benefit them and will save water for everyone.

"As students, we also expect to learn a lot about fern growing and science," he

said, "but it sure was cold out there while we were doing it!"

Frigid nights are rare in central Florida, but they occur often enough to cause real distress for growers of fern and other ornamental foliage. Ferneries in an area located halfway between Jacksonville and Orlando supply about 80 percent of America's cut foliage—the ferns, leaves and branches that florists use to add variety and background to flower arrangements.

Florida's cut foliage producers generated more than \$90 million in sales last year from just under 8,500 planted acres. More than half their business derives from heavy flower sales surrounding a few spring holidays between February and May, so they're very interested in protecting their winter crop from the overnight frosts and freezes that happen from 5 to 12 times a year between December and March.

"In the early 1960s, fern growers learned to protect their crops from freezing by spraying water through their irrigation systems," said Winston Tooke, district conservationist with the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. "At frost temperatures, the water keeps the frost

off the plants. Below freezing, the water turns to ice, and in doing so releases latent energy which keeps the fern from being cold-damaged. It works well, but it requires huge amounts of water."

The Water Squeeze

Three or four years ago, Tooke said, Florida's exploding population collided with the fern industry, which was also expanding rapidly. Homeowners began to complain that their domestic wells went dry when nearby ferneries ran their deep-well irrigation pumps overnight to freeze-protect.

Then the local water management district, a state agency tasked with protecting and allocating water resources, stepped in.

"They told the fern growers they'd have to cut way back on their use of water for freeze-protection, or risk losing their water allocations altogether," Tooke said. "The district drew up standards calling for a huge reduction in water use, even before growers had the technology or know-how to meet those standards."

(Continued on Page 35)

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Computers in Agriculture winners were named at an awards banquet on Capitol Hill.

Photo by Jeri Mattics

1987's Best Computers In Agriculture Projects

Robert Nickolaus named national winner.

SOMEWHERE during the National FFA Computers in Agriculture Seminar the 42 state finalists attending got to be good friends. But with a hectic week of hands-on computer workshops, touring Washington, D.C., and competing for a national award, those friendships were made quickly.

The seminar was held August 8-12, at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from the nation's capital. Robert Nickolaus of the Hampton, Nebraska, FFA Chapter was named national winner for his use of computers in agribusiness accounting and inventory control.

National officers Kevin Eblen, president, and Jayme Feary, southern region vice president, hosted fellow FFA members, advisors and parents to the seminar sponsored by AgriData Resources, Inc.,

as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

When the members weren't giving their project presentations to a panel of judges, they were in workshops learning the latest in desktop publishing, how to use the Ag Ed Network.

But for all the recognition the winners received and all the new things they learned, the obvious highlight of the conference was simply FFA members getting the chance to meet other members who shared the same interests—computers.

Let's Go!

On Tuesday, the group had their photo taken on the steps of the Capitol, attended a congressional awards banquet where the national winners were announced and toured the Capitol. Then they rode the subway out of Washington

and were shuttled to the National FFA Center.

They toured the Center's facilities and ate steaks at an FFA Alumni sponsored cookout where they mingled with a group of European exchange students. After a tour of the nearby historic Woodlawn Plantation and some dessert, the group finally returned to their hotel—only after they had invited the Europeans to a talent show they had organized themselves.

The top five national winners were selected for their outstanding programs based on how they used computers in their supervised occupational experience program and FFA activities. The following are profiles of the winners and their computer projects.

Robert Nickolaus Hampton, Nebraska National Winner

Equipped with an IBM PC and flexible Lotus 1-2-3 software, Robert Nickolaus managed warehouse inventory for four local cooperatives. He maintained a record of sales, receipts and transfers for the coops. He also customized spreadsheets and worksheets to calculate inventory balances, monthly sales and sales for year-to-date.

"The information from these programs was used to make important decisions regarding purchasing, advertising and close-out items," said Robert. He used the same technology to manage his personal farm records, lowering his production costs and getting a higher price for his commodities by charting market prices.

Tributes to Robert's success in business management go further than winning the Computers in Agriculture award. Just this year, he was named Nebraska's Star Agribusinessman and received the state Agriculture Sales and Service award.

Like most national winners, Robert's involvement started in his chapter. According to Robert, the Hampton FFA Chapter uses its Apple computer for almost every project. "We plan our program of activities, budget our finances and write our correspondence and speeches with our computer.

Robert's future projects include setting up a county-wide bulletin board system with another student. He is starting his freshman year at the University of Nebraska this fall where he plans to major in engineering and computer science.

Ellen Williams Staley, North Carolina

This year's second-place winner Ellen Williams, was publisher of the North



And the winners are... Pictured left to right are Bruce Herz, vice president of AgriData Resources, Inc; CIA winners Robert Nickolaus, first place; Ellen Williams, second place; Randi Ray, third place; Scott McKee, fourth place; John Rygh, fifth place and Larry Case, national FFA advisor.

Carolina Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association newsletter. She was responsible for compiling information, typing it (using a word processing program) and then designing the newsletter, which averaged 16 pages per issue. In nine months, she and her advisor, Raymond Caviness, published eight newsletters.

Along with producing a quality newsletter, Ellen's goal was to showcase the capabilities of a good word processing program to people in agriculture. She admits, "The NCVATA newsletter provided me the unique opportunity to reach everyone in North Carolina teaching vocational agriculture."

Ellen plans to get a degree in animal science and attend veterinarian school. Then, "When I open my own clinic, I plan to run it entirely on a computer system," says Ellen. "All my records, bills and schedules will be kept on disk. This will greatly simplify the paperwork involved in running my practice."

Randi Ray Chowchilla, California

In today's competitive dairy industry, knowing precisely where you're making money—and losing it—is crucial. For third-place winner Randi Ray, her Apple IIe is an investment that is paying big dividends.

She maintains financial records for her 35 head of Registered Guernsey and Holstein cattle. Along with these records, she plans an annual budget for her dairy SOEP and calculates net worth statements. Randi started using computers when she enrolled in the Chowchilla's Ag Business Computers course.

As 1986-87 chapter president, Randi created a chapter roster database. She used word processing to develop a career portfolio that she will use in job interviews. This fall, Randi is majoring in agricultural business at Merced Junior College with an emphasis in dairy management.

Scott McKee Liberal, Missouri

Like many of the other state winners, fourth-place finisher Scott McKee used the AppleWorks software program to manage his entire registered Hereford and Limousin cow-calf project. He used the software, which contains word processing, spreadsheet and database programs, on his Apple IIe and IIc.

He also used a package called Ag-Pac which contains programs for analyzing different real estate crop and livestock enterprises.

After high school, Scott is planning on a future in electrical engineering where he hopes to, "make electronics more available for agricultural production and management decisions." With visions of term papers down the road, he plans on using the computer "extensively" in college.

John Rygh Hermiston, Oregon

Fifth-place winner John Rygh (pronounced Rig), believes that "if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself."

"I developed a computer program that figures what nozzle sprinkler and pressure regulator to put in each outlet on a center-pivot irrigation system," said John. "I first considered writing this program when my father and I put up three center pivots behind our house. To get a printout that told what sprinkler, nozzle and pressure regulator to use on each outlet would have cost \$80-\$100. When my father asked me if I could write a program that would produce a similar printout, I went right to work."

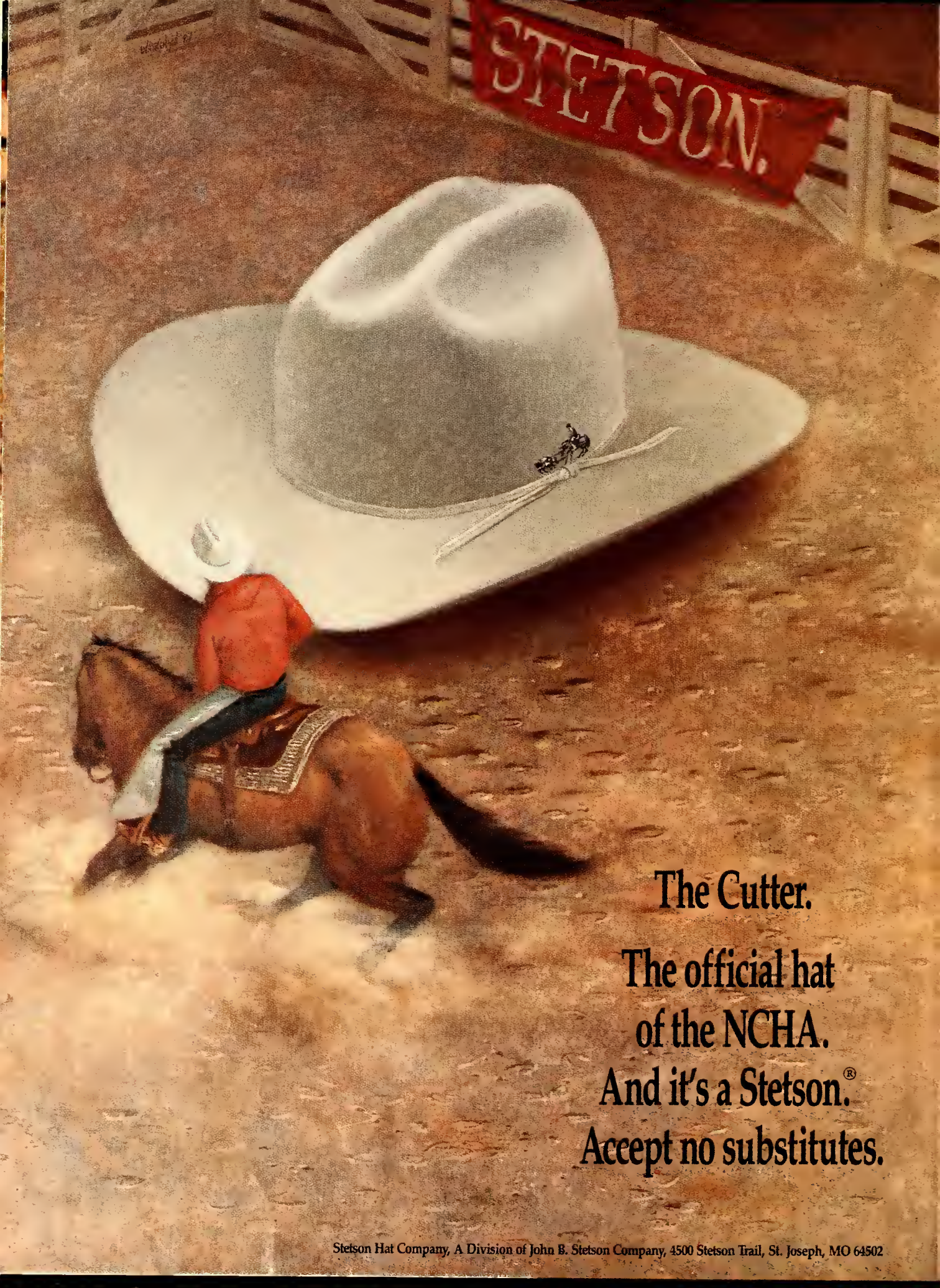
John is now marketing the program, written on an IBM PCjr, to other producers who irrigate. His selling price of \$40 is about half what his competitors are asking.

He is in the process of developing an Oregon SOEP Record Book program for IBM computers. John plans to pursue a career in agronomy. ●●●



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Water Waste

(Continued from Page 28)

The area's growers got together with Tooke, the local Soil and Water Conservation District Board and Dr. Stamps and drew up plans to test several promising, but untried, methods of saving water during irrigation and freeze protection.

District lawmakers helped the group win a \$25,000 start-up grant from the Florida Legislature. The growers chose the Crescent City FFA Chapter to help construct, supervise and operate the test center. Work on the fernery began late in 1986.

"We were in it from the very beginning," chapter member Stewart Malphurs said. "We helped erect the shade structures over the planting area, put in the irrigation and drain system and planted the ferns. It was hard work, but we know the fernery from top to bottom now."

The fernery is located behind Crescent City High School on a plot formerly used for row crops. It's divided into three 1/3-acre "shade houses." In one, the irrigation system is designed to spray water above the shade cloth to create a thin layer of ice, forming a protective igloo during freezing weather. In a second, a new "wobbler" sprinkler that disperses smaller water droplets over a wider area than conventional sprinklers will be tried. In the third, the students installed roll-up curtains on the top and sides of the shade structure to help shut in heat when freezes come.

"These are methods that we've known about for some time, but we haven't been able to run a meaningful test on a large

scale," said Dr. Stamps, the state's most knowledgeable researcher on cut foliage. "Our own test center is about 60 miles south of the main fern-growing area and we don't get nearly as many cold snaps."

With the FFA chapter's help, the new fernery went up in time to catch three late-season freezes in early 1987.

"We were able to run three quick studies, even though we didn't have fern planted yet," Kenny Noble said. "In the ice-over structure, we put thermocouples in different places to measure ground temperatures and ran wires to a central recorder, then recorded the temperatures, wind speed and times at regular intervals all night long."

"Did it work? We compared the water use in the ice-over shade house to a 'control' fernery next to it. In the ice-over house, we only turned on the water four times for a few minutes and used 64 percent less water than the control while maintaining the same temperature."

In addition to the freeze protection studies, which of necessity will consume only a few weeks each winter, FFA'ers will conduct other, year-round experiments.

"We're using tensiometers, a device that measures the moisture in the soil, to tell us when to water," Stewart Malphurs said. "Most fern growers just turn on their water when it hasn't rained in a while, or when their neighbor is watering. We think that by using tensiometers to get an accurate reading, we'll irrigate less often. We're also monitoring fertilizer application rates to try to save money there."



Dr. Bob Stamps of the University of Florida checks ambient temperature on the test fernery's shade cover with an infrared sensing "gun."

Photo by A. K. Smith

FFA members will harvest and sell the fern; it has an income potential of several thousand dollars per year. Any income beyond what's necessary to operate the test site will help fund other chapter projects.

All his agriculture students, about one-quarter of the high school's enrollment, will benefit from working in the experimental fernery, David Brown said.

"Fern is the biggest agricultural product in this part of the state. However, we were never able to teach much about it in vocational agriculture up 'til now. It's an uncommon commodity and you won't read about it in textbooks," he said.

"With this fernery, we'll not only be doing some useful research. We'll be able to train students to function in local agribusiness."

The students keep extensive logs of irrigation, fertilizer application, labor hours and other data in Brown's classroom, a small building where the walls and tables sag with state and national FFA awards. Brown's students have a reputation of becoming involved in a wide range of activities and excelling in whatever they do.

"This project couldn't be in better hands," fern grower Lee Morris said. "The information it will produce is vital to our industry. While the growers are behind it, we often can't spare the time and legwork it takes to make something like this successful. We're depending on David, his students and the FFA chapter to carry this through, and we know they'll do a terrific job."

...



USDA conservationist Winston Tooke, left, helps Jason Byrd install a sprinkler head in the test fernery while ag student Sherman Hankins observes.

Those Amazing Judges

This livestock judging team won three national championships in nine days. *By Dianne L. Beetler*

SIRENS wailed; car horns honked and Scheering people lined the streets as the Atkinson, Illinois, fire trucks and rescue unit escorted the victorious team through town. At the high school, team members proudly displayed their most recent trophy and received congratulations from local residents.

Successful midwestern athletic teams often enjoy "welcome home" celebrations, but in Atkinson, the cheers and congratulations were for an FFA livestock judging team that had won three national judging championships in nine days.

Members of the team were Rob Reiling, 17; Kale Causemaker, 18; Mike Stanek, 18; and Mark Taber, 19. Reiling and Stanek recently graduated from Atkinson High School and Causemaker and Taber, Atkinson graduates, recently completed their first year at Black Hawk East College, Kewanee, Illinois.

Competing against 14 other FFA teams, they won the National Western Stock Show Fall Classic Youth Livestock Judging Contest on November 10, 1986, in Denver, Colorado. Representing Henry County 4-H clubs, they won the American Royal 4-H Livestock Judging Contest on November 15 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Causemaker, Stanek and Taber teamed with Dan Hinshaw of Normal, Illinois, to win the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 18. They also qualified for the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs Stockmanship Contest in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In the past four years, the Atkinson FFA team has racked up more than 3,000 victories—winning 98 percent of the contests—and has not lost in more



Mark Taber, right, and Kale Causemaker, second from right, do some "hands on" judging during a team workout on a farm near Atkinson.

Photo by Author

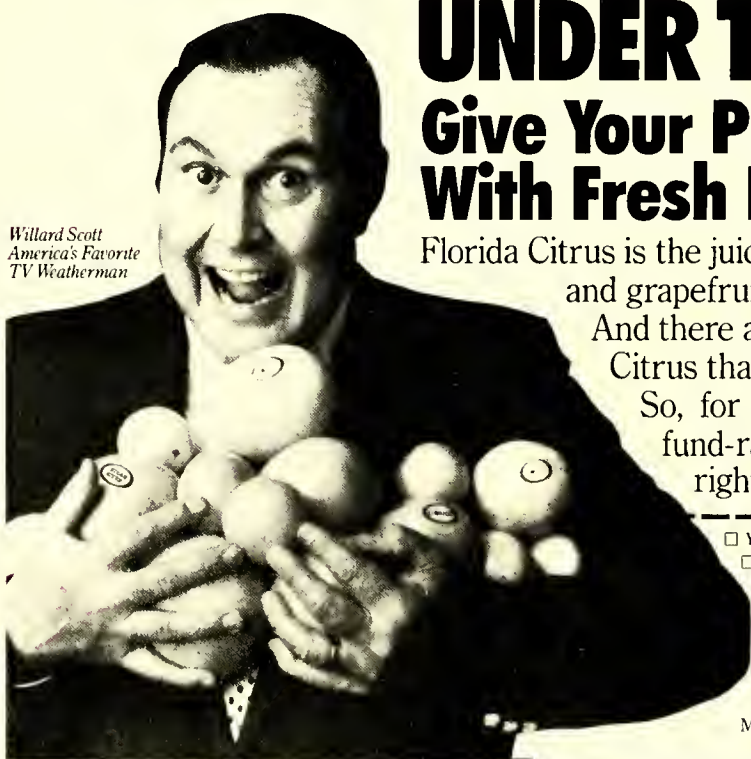
than a year.

The team was the 1985 champion in state FFA livestock judging, 1985 National Cattle Congress FFA Livestock Judging Champion, and winner of the Gold Emblem at the 1985 National FFA Livestock Judging Contest. In 1986, the team again won the National

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Cattle Congress FFA Livestock Judging Contest and many other competitions.

All these accomplishments seem even more spectacular because Atkinson High School has only 78 students. Forty percent of them, however, have enrolled in vo-ag courses for four consecutive years.

Roger Carr was a rookie coach and a new teacher when he became Atkinson High School's agriculture instructor and FFA advisor four years ago. He immediately recognized the four members' potential as high-caliber FFA judges.

They spent many hours judging livestock and giving oral reasons at a local livestock market and on area farms. Four to six weeks before a contest, the team began meeting weekly after school or on Saturdays to practice. Sometimes, they practiced with the award-winning livestock judging teams from nearby Black Hawk East College.

The team members did not prepare for contests during school hours, but en route to contests, they often stopped at farms to judge livestock. And in their motel room the night before a contest, they judged magazine pictures.

All four young men believe their FFA livestock judging experiences prepared them for future agricultural careers.

"Judging definitely helps from a communications standpoint, and I've learned a lot about livestock," Causemaker says. He wants to coach college livestock judging teams someday.

Reiling plans to study animal science at the University of Illinois and eventually farm.

Taber probably will major in animal science in college. He and Causemaker both received achievement awards which pay two years of tuition at Black Hawk East College.

Unlike the other team members, Stanek moved to Atkinson from the city when he was a freshman. "I had never heard of livestock judging," he says. He enrolled in Carr's classes because agriculture always had interested him.

"I kept pushing harder to prove myself because I was a city kid," he says. "I think I have proven that agriculture, FFA and livestock judging are not just for producers." He plans to major in ag communications in college.

Consistency was the key to the team's success. At all three national contests, Atkinson had three of the top five finishers in the oral reasons category. Team members frequently placed first in several categories.

"When we go to a contest, we know that most of the teams are out to beat us," says Reiling. "If they prepare better than we do, then we deserve to lose."

A statement from Carr serves as the team motto. "We don't want to be remembered as the best. We want to be remembered as doing our best." ...

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European Tour Opens Eyes

By Lawinna McGary

AWARD money, plaques and recognition on the National FFA Convention stage are exciting rewards of being a national proficiency award winner, but the benefits don't stop there. A European tour still awaits the winners—seven months after the Kansas City convention.

This year's agricultural tour of Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France and Belgium was headed by FFA Awards Specialist Robert Seefeldt, FFA Advisor Frank Moon, his wife Betty and former awards intern Lawinna McGary. The June 15-July 4 seminar was sponsored as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Before leaving for Europe, the winners arrived in Washington, D.C., for three days of orientation sessions. Understanding money exchange rates, sharpening camera skills and encountering culture shock were covered. Sightseeing included the Smithsonian museums, Mount Vernon and the National FFA Center.

Over There

Europe was no longer a spot on the map for the 29 enthused members when they landed in Frankfurt, West Germany. During their seven days in Germany, the travelers visited a horse-boarding farm, Ansbach agricultural school, the agricultural facility of the University of Munich and a diversified crop and livestock farm. Other sights included Heidelberg Castle, Rothenburg ob der Tauber (an ancient walled city) and Dachau Concentration Camp, the first of its kind during World War II. However, the highlight for many were the host family stays. As Greg Matherly, specialty crop production award winner explained, "There were many great experiences on this trip. Most important



Photo by Lawinna McGary

Dwarfed by the Eiffel Tower, the winners toured Paris and many other European cities.

was gaining a better understanding of European agriculture through my host family."

The rolling farmland of Germany gave way to the Austrian Alps as the tour bus headed into Italy. In addition to touring the Institute of Research for Fruit Growing located in the Bolzano apple region, the proficiency winners also viewed Leonardo da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper."

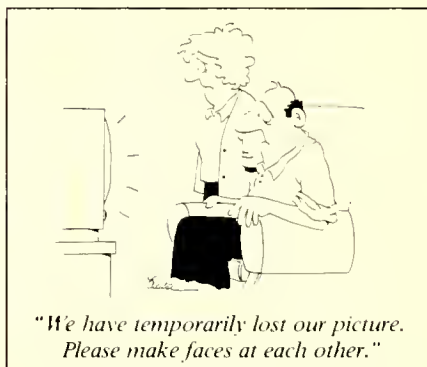
Say Cheese

The Swiss host family activities of hay-making, hiking and watching a cheesemaking demonstration (cheese made the old-fashioned way, by hand) kept the travelers busy. Then it was off to Bern, Switzerland for a presentation at the American Embassy.

In France, the group first visited a beef-finishing operation, then moved to Paris. There they saw the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Notre Dame Cathedral.

The proficiency winners' last day in Europe was spent at the Grand Palace in Brussels, Belgium.

Bret Mouse, wildlife management proficiency award winner, said he gained valuable experience from the tour. "I've learned countless lessons about life and agriculture. This seminar has really opened my eyes to the worldwide agricultural situation."



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Chapter Scoop

Five farmers spoke to the junior-senior vo-ag classes of **Mount Blanchard, OH**, on the prospects of farming in the future. They share ideas and past experiences with students who are studying marketing and farm management.

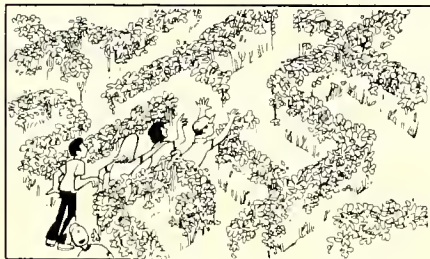
Boscobel, WI, Chapter's slow pitch softball team ended the season with its best record ever—3 wins and 17 losses. Not bad compared to the previous 1-19 season. And the 3 wins equal the total wins the FFA team can claim for the last 12 years in the adult league.

Denise Cefalu and Mike Conard, members of the **Gilroy, CA**, FFA, were each awarded \$5,000 scholarships from the Myrle Wolfe Memorial Fund. They were chosen based on academic achievements and FFA participation.

Clintwood, VA, FFA had a fish fry for the members and their fathers this summer, according to *Ricky Baker*, reporter.

Rusk, TX, officers had a training session in mid-June to discuss activities, leadership, plan a new program of work for the year and to learn officer parts and duties.

Douglas, OR, horticulture class members landscaped the secondary vocational resource center. They were divided into three groups and each group designed their own area, had it approved and did the actual planting and work.



Oak Harbor, OH, FFA completed a soybean plot for 1987 with 92 test strips of soybeans in the school land lab.

En route to the state judging contests, the **Meridian, ID**, Chapter stopped overnight and played a softball game with the **Kuna** Chapter.

The annual "end of school" float trip is a popular event for members of the **Webbers Falls, OK**, Chapter. This year they went about 25 miles, camped overnight and put away a lot of food.

A chapter barbeque will welcome new freshmen to the **Houston, MO**, FFA.

During the annual lamb and wool fair in their community, the **Scio, OR**, FFA hosted a tractor-driving contest. FFA officer *Craig Fery* won the under 19 category; Advisor *Gary Tempel* won the 19-25 category; and Craig's father, Joe, won the 26-and-over age group.

At the **Oconto Falls, WI**, Chapter banquet, they auctioned several items for fun (and raised a little extra money, too) such as a chocolate cake for \$13 and 1 1/2 quarts of maple syrup for \$20. Auctioneer was an FFA'er from the neighboring chapter.

A number of popular soybean varieties were planted in the land lab at the high school in **Miller City, OH**, by FFA. Yield tests will be reported in the fall.

Pleasanton, TX, Chapter has adopted a two-mile stretch of a major highway and then each month members walk the distance to pick up and clean up.



The BOAC Committee of the **Meridian, ID**, Chapter took on a tractor restoration project for the Children's Christian Ranch. Parts and repairs paid by the FFA BOAC fund.

The annual FFA Alumni fun day for **Licking Valley, OH**, Chapter included a tractor pull, kiddie tractor pull, an egg toss and ended with a picnic.

The most popular stop at the **Smithville, OH**, FFA petting zoo for their fellow high school students was the chance to ride a horse.

As a money-making project, the **Macon, MO**, Chapter sold ads in the *Grand National Truck and Tractor Pull* magazine. They earned \$1,000.

Lakeview, OR, invites the alumni and parents to an ice cream social each summer.

Pumpkins for the fall, poinsettias for Christmas and bedding plants in the spring are money-makers for the **Russellville Area, FFA** in **AR**.

Carson Valley, NV, officers' retreat was a campout in Desert Creek.



The **Genoa, OH**, FFA held its annual kiss a pig contest. High school students vote for the teacher they think should be the winner. This year Mr. Boles and Mrs. Szychowski were the faculty winners. Monies collected actually go to the children's hospital fund.

Each year the **McMinn County, TN**, Chapter sends all officers and any "gung ho" FFA members to the state leadership training camp. This year they sent the officers, four members-at-large and their two advisors.

Evergreen FFA in **Vancouver, WA**, sponsored a community fair this spring. Exhibitors came with animals, vegetables, foods, flowers, fashions, arts, crafts and needlework.

South Rowan, NC, Chapter members, with help from the Alumni, sold 1,500 cups of homemade hand-cranked ice cream at Farmer's Day. Peach was the most popular flavor.

Three members with the name *Qualls* were elected to office for the **Evening Shade, AR**, Chapter. *Ronnie* is president, *Kevin* is vice president and *Jeremy* is junior advisor.

Arch Moore Vo-Tech FFA in **WV** held an ag day event and hosted 1,200 guests—mostly from grades K-3. The press was there, too.

This is the time of year when many of you will get back into the swing of FFA. That should include a note or two to Scoop about the neat things in FFA in your chapter. Or what happened to you this summer. Or how the chapter is getting fired up this fall. Let's hear from every state!



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Twenty-six-year-old Steve joined the genetic staff at 21st Century Genetics two years ago after receiving his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As an undergraduate, Steve had majored in dairy science. He decided to pursue his master's degree because "I felt I'd need a master's to get the kind of starting job I was looking for," he said.

Steve's master's degree is also in dairy science, specializing in breeding and genetics. That, combined with a dairy

farm background as a youth, which included two years of FFA, gave him the tools necessary to carry out his primary job responsibilities.

These responsibilities include extensive traveling throughout the nation, particularly the upper midwest and eastern United States, to many of the top registered dairy herds evaluating cows as potential "bull mothers." "I really enjoy this part of the job because I get to meet and visit with many of the top dairy cattle breeders and see many of the top cows," says Steve.

All cows that qualify as bull mothers "on paper" are then inspected on the farm by Steve or another staff member. Upon inspection, if all criteria are met, Steve will offer the dairyman a contract to buy a future son of that cow, sired by a bull of Steve's choice. If the cow has a heifer, the dairyman keeps the calf. In many cases, the cow would then be recontracted for her next calf. If a bull

calf results, it becomes a member of the cooperative's progeny testing program.

A selected few of these bulls will become top AI proven sires that will be used by dairymen nationwide to improve their herds. More than 150 cows are contracted by 21st Century Genetics each year.

Steve also works with the cooperative's photo team, finding and evaluating daughters of the cooperative's sampling program graduates as possibilities for pictures. These pictures are used for advertising and promotion on the proven lineup of sires.

Steve's responsibilities also include assisting the distributor marketing division with tours for international visitors who desire to see daughters of the cooperative's sires.

Enjoys Research

Steve says he enjoys basic research and analysis of data which enables the genetic division to be more accurate in their selection of cows to be considered as bull mothers. And he assists in reviewing sire summary information from the USDA, enabling the marketing and genetic divisions to determine which sires will be graduated into the proven sire lineup after each sire summary run.

As a youth, Steve enjoyed working with dairy cattle, a factor that led him into his present occupation. In college, he was active on the dairy cattle judging team, which helped him communicate clearly and express himself concisely. "It helped me be at ease when talking to people, whether it be to a group or one-on-one with a dairy farmer," says Steve.

Steve was also the sale chairman of the first Badger Invitational dairy cattle sale, a consignment sale sponsored by the college's Badger Dairy Club to raise money for club activities and to help the students gain experience in dairy cattle sales and merchandizing. It also provided an excellent opportunity to meet influential breeders from around Wisconsin.

Steve feels the qualities that make him good for this particular job are his easy-going manner and an ability to talk with dairy farmers. "My background gave me the ability to talk in terms that a dairy farmer can understand. It's just hard to beat growing up on a farm," he says. "I can speak with confidence because I know what I'm talking about and yet I am decisive when I have to sometimes say 'No' to a farmer who thinks I should contract his cow."

Steve's supervisor, Dr. David Selner, agrees. "Steve not only brings the technical expertise to his job, but he has a real knack for getting along with people and working with dairy farmers," Dr. Selner says. "and that's a hard combination to beat." ●●●

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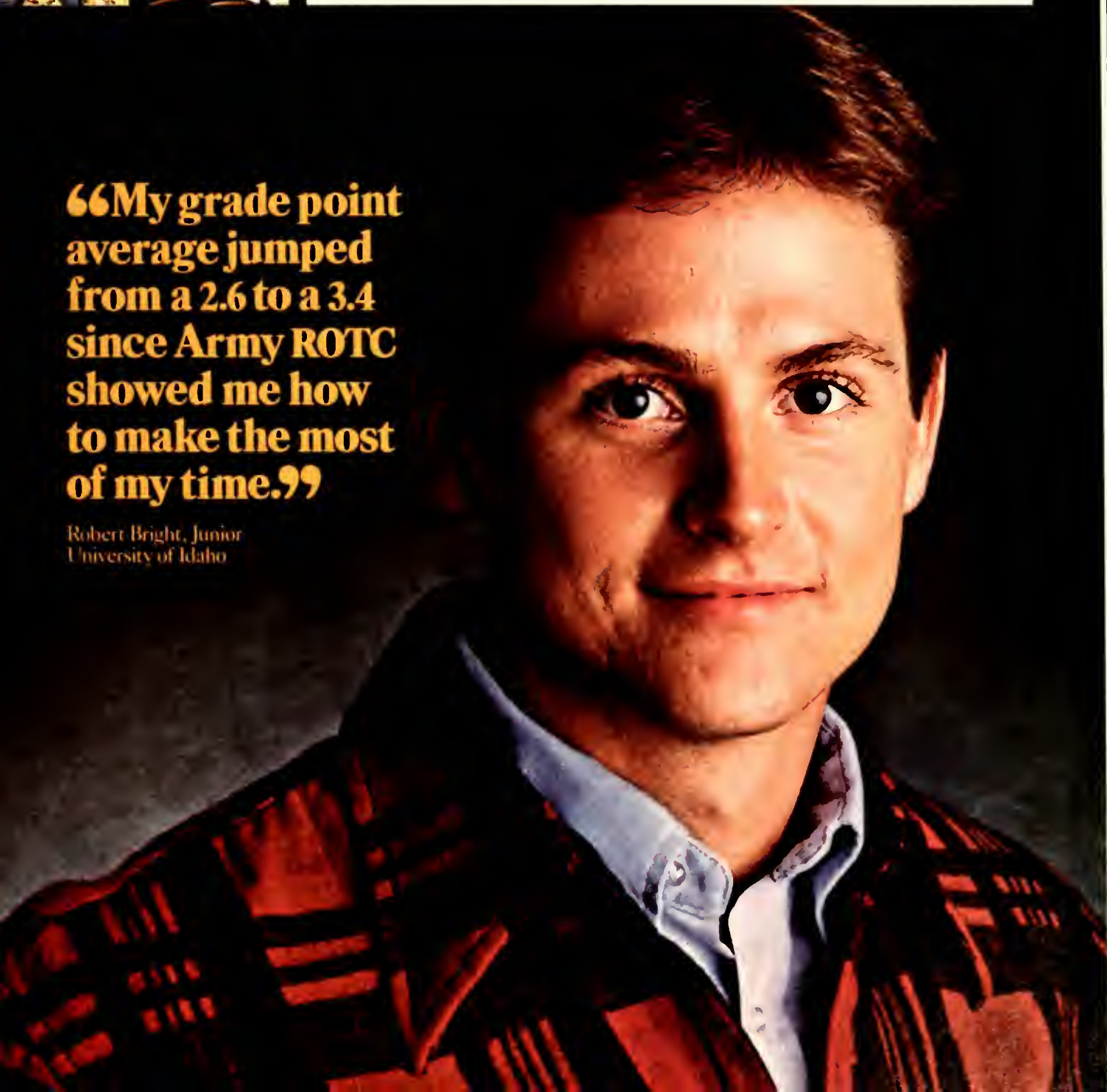
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It pays to know all you can before buying a tractor. So, ask a Ford owner about his tractor and his dealer. When you know what he does, we think you'll soon own a Ford, too.



Is your tractor built as well as a Ford?

Young Farmers Reach Out with Safety Program



Cooperation with FFA chapters is key to campaign's success.

By Wayne Sprick

FILLING a need. That's what the National Young Farmer Educational Association, Inc., (NYFEA) is trying to do. For example, take their new Health and Safety Program.

Volatile fuels such as high-octane gasoline can turn from power sources to explosions in a flash. Many people don't fully understand the dangers of handling these fuels.

The NYFEA decided it was time for an educational campaign dealing with the problem. Starting November 1, agriculture instructors across the country will be receiving letters explaining how to get their local Young Farmer chapter involved in spreading this safety message to local farmers.

The safety program will be a large undertaking. To get the word out faster and to more people, the NYFEA is asking FFA members to get involved with their local Young Farmer chapter.

The program is being sponsored by Navistar International Transportation Corp., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. It will be run by the Young Farmers much like last year's FFA Brand 'Em for Safety program, using decals to remind farmers to be careful.

FFA chapters can use this program for their national safety awards applica-

tion. In areas where there are no Young Farmer chapters, the NYFEA is asking FFA members to carry the safety program on their own.

This is the first national NYFEA program to be carried out in cooperation with FFA. The association moved its headquarters to the National FFA Center in January, 1987, in an attempt to strengthen its relationship with the rest of the agricultural education community.

The NYFEA is a national organization for adult farmers and ranchers. Its purpose is education with emphasis in the areas of leadership and communication. The association is presently made up of 25 affiliated states and is governed by an 11-member board of directors. Two annual business meetings are held in July and December where each state is represented by selected delegates. The 1987 Winter Business Meeting will be held in Peoria, Illinois, December 9-12.

Other Young Farmer programs include the "Spokesperson for Agriculture" and the "Farm and Ranch Management" programs. For information regarding Young Farmer activities, ask your agriculture teacher, state supervisor of agricultural education or contact Wayne J. Sprick, NYFEA executive director, P.O. Box 15160, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309. ●●●

Pioneer Hosts Feed Grain Winners

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., sponsored an all-expense paid trip to its headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, for the 1986 Regional Feed Grain Production Proficiency winners August 17-18.

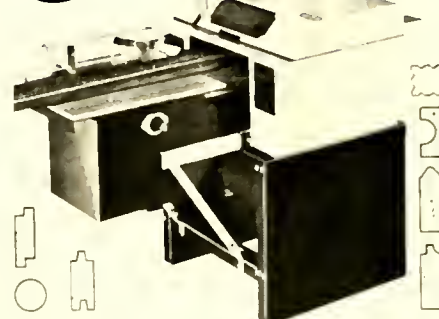
Attending the educational seminar were David Anderegg and his advisor Steve Zaruba of the Guttenberg, Iowa, FFA; Charles Thomas and his advisor Steve Cline of the Ledford, North

Carolina, FFA and Jeff Cooksey of the Weld Central FFA in Colorado.

Participants toured the parent corn production facilities and a demonstration plot, viewed a video presentation on plant breeding and visited the Pioneer Data Systems facilities. The tour was sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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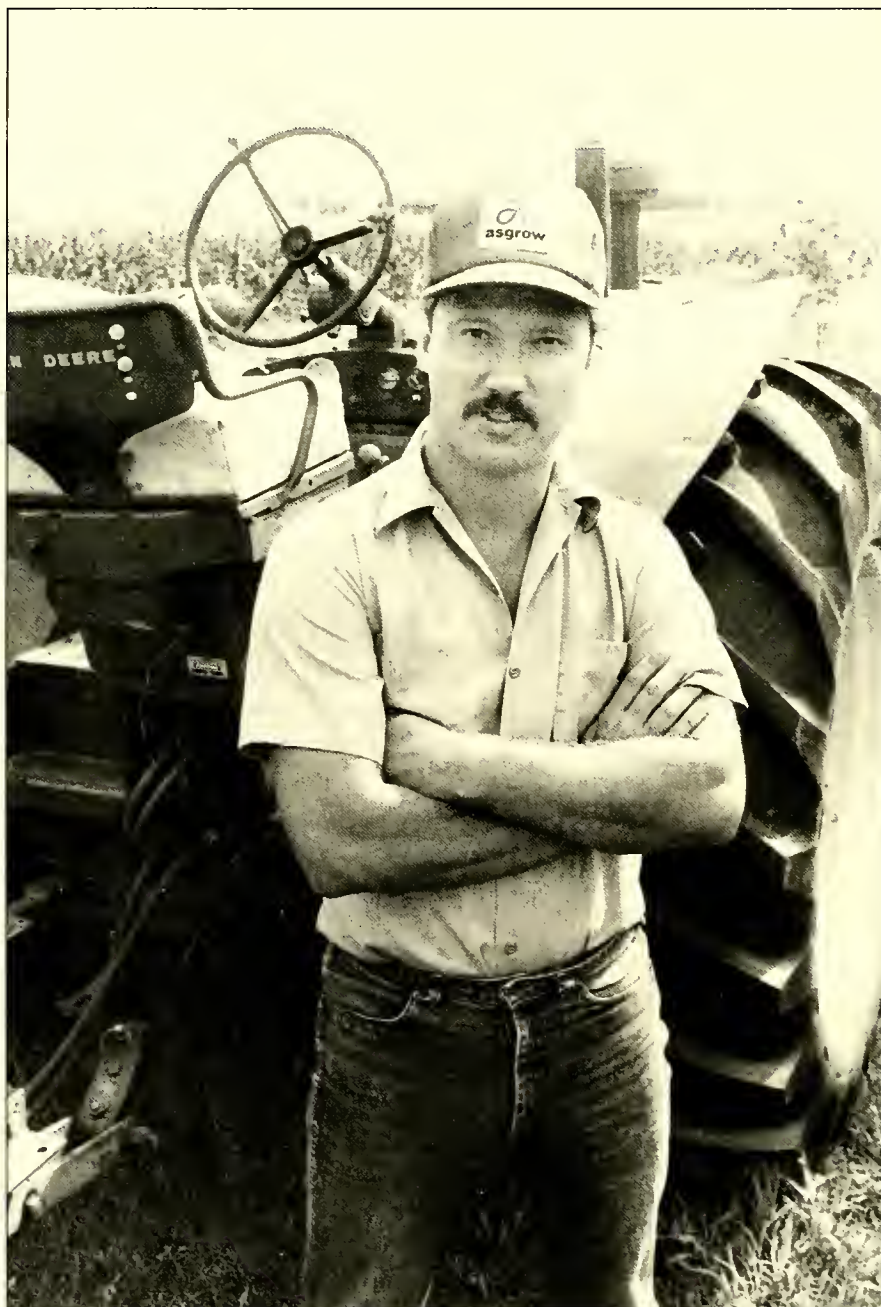
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Here come the Part-time Farmers, Full Time Professionals

Young adults find ways to pursue full or part-time careers in both farming and other professions.

By Michael Wilson



EACH morning Steve Davis races the sunrise for a 40-minute drive to his law office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where the former FFA member-turned-lawyer usually puts in 12-hour days poring over tax laws.

As a tax lawyer and CPA, Davis is in early stages of a most demanding career. But for him, the work's not over when the day is done. That's when he heads home to his second job—as a part-time farmer on the family dairy and wheat farm near Guthrie, Oklahoma.

These days you can find more and more young adults like Davis who hold down both a professional job and farm part-time on the side. Statistics are incomplete, but it appears there are more young people pursuing professional careers off the farm first—and filling in with part-time farm work on the side.

Why? One theory is that today's younger generation has loftier income goals, and full-time farming may not fit those goals. Young people appear to be more willing, even anxious, to pursue another profession for their primary source of income—then add part-time or small farm work into their lifestyles.

Another reason may be that young people are less willing to give up deep roots in agriculture. Kids who grew up on a farm don't have to leave country life because of a job in the city. They can continue a smaller, yet active role in farming while working in more urban-oriented professions. Instead of giving up a dream to farm, they alter their dream to fit income and lifestyle goals.

Twenty-nine-year-old Davis, a Guthrie Chapter American Farmer, is a good example. He majored in agricultural economics and accounting in college before attending law school. He has been a lawyer for over four years, but he also arranged with his parents and young brothers Rick and Kenny to continue an active role in the family dairy farm.

"I have always had a deep commitment and love for our family farming business," he says. "Because of that I wanted to stay involved. With my law practice and accounting background, I found a way I could contribute to the farm."

Steve trades off milking and cropping chores on weekends, and spends many evenings keeping the farm's paperwork in order. The Davis farm milks 140 to 160 cows and produces several hundred Chianina beef cattle.

The depressed farm economy has

(Continued on Page 50)

Stan Blacker is an insurance salesman who also runs a 100-acre crop farm in Illinois.



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Photo courtesy of Progressive Farmer

Steve Davis' Oklahoma City law office is a long drive from the family milk operation in Guthrie, but he's remained active using his professional skills.

(Continued from Page 48)

caused a shift in job patterns as well. In the last ten years, vo-ag students have found fewer opportunities to farm full time. Tom Cory, himself a farmer and vo-ag instructor at North Polk High School in Alleman, Iowa, says he's noticed a new pattern.

"The trend in agriculture is changing towards dual jobs," he says. "I think it's happening all over the country."

Cory thinks more vo-ag students are discovering that full-time farming may not be a realistic goal. "But they're finding it is still possible to keep your hand in farming on a smaller scale."

Time Management

How do they do it? One secret is that they manage their time wisely. Cory has taught high school agriculture and operated his 300-acre livestock farm for 16 years. Yet, Cory handles both jobs and his family responsibilities admirably. He delegates responsibility to willing FFA members and alumni, and manages his schedule carefully.

Cory's FFA chapter consistently wins at contests, and the North Polk Alumni chapter was named outstanding state FFA Alumni Affiliate two years ago. Last year the chapter had Vice President Bush speak at their FFA banquet.

The seasonal nature of farming means time is short during certain points in the year. For Steve Davis, planting and harvesttime is when he's needed most on the farm. His family annually plants about 1,300 acres of wheat, alfalfa, silage and some pasture.

"Fortunately, we each have our roles," says Steve. "It would never work without team effort."

Davis credits his FFA background for helping him learn to manage his time and priorities. In high school he was in charge of a supervised farm project, and

was active in speech contest, livestock judging and parliamentary procedure.

"I think the competition and leadership training in FFA was a good base for learning how to do a lot of things at one time," Davis says.

Pick a Job, Any Job

As USDA economist Tom Carlin says, "Part-time farming is a hard thing to measure." But he goes on to say that a recent census of agriculture revealed that 45 percent of the nation's 2.2 million farmers reported their primary occupation was something other than farming.

And there is little rhyme or reason what profession people choose to go along with their farm activities. A random sample reveals a broad spectrum of full-time jobs that young adults work in: rural mail carriers, bankers, insurance salesmen, farm chemical or feed salesmen, to name a few.

For example, Stan Blacker, a White Heath, Illinois, part-time farmer, plainly states his first priority is his full-time job: selling insurance. "If I had the opportunity to farm full time now, I wouldn't," Blacker says.

"Agriculture is just too depressed. I couldn't afford to dump my insurance career at this point."

But Blacker also knows that if the weather and other conditions are right, the crops on his 100-acre farm must be tended to also. His insurance job is flexible enough that he can make those adjustments without too much trouble.

"With a sales career, you really have control of your schedule," he says. "It would be difficult with a 40-hour per week factory job."

Another advantage to a small, part-time farm setup is that costs are lower. Blacker doesn't have much money tied up in farming—about \$12,000 in machinery, he estimates. He relies on two 30-year-old John Deeres for field work and he rents a combine.



Photo courtesy of Wallace Farmer

Agriculture teacher Tom Cory farms by delegating responsibility and effective time management.

Both Blacker and Davis say farming is a good escape from their office-oriented jobs. "There are times when you think it would be great to get away from the clamor of the city and get some fresh air," says Davis. More than once the Oklahoma native has been tempted to return to the farm permanently. "But our arrangement has worked out really well."

Traditionally, many former agriculture students grudgingly took jobs off the farm only long enough to save enough money to jump head first into farming full time. Despite the trend away from full-time farming, off-farm jobs still help would-be farmers get established.

Brian Henry, Champaign, Illinois, is one of those who would rather be farming all the time. He now farms 120 acres and holds down a full-time job as foreman of ICI Americas' midwest research farm. He knows there are fewer risks involved in steady work.

"Every Monday there is a paycheck waiting," he says. "That's not always true in production agriculture. It all depends on your willingness to take risks."

Henry says handling two jobs requires more than good time management. "The first thing you need is an understanding spouse," says Henry. "Given the seasonal nature of farming during planting and harvest, there are times when your spouse doesn't see you much."

Unlike some young farmers, Henry was not handed a farm upon leaving high school or college. He neither married nor inherited any farmland. "It's difficult to do it this way," he admits. But by holding down another job, he and his wife Kathy, who also works full time, are able to progress toward farming.

Still, many dual-job young people are content with their arrangement.

"Farming a couple hundred acres and working another job full-time is not such a bad life," concludes Stan Blacker. "In fact, it just might be better than farming full time."

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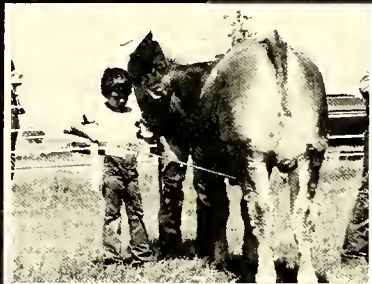
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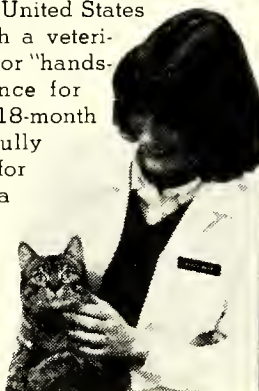
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On Top Of A New Tractor

By Jack Pitzer

JOSH Wyckoff, a member of the Woodrow, Colorado, Chapter, was lucky to get to climb up on and drive the new CASE IH tractor line unveiled at an extensive product introduction event in Denver, Colorado.

Josh and his dad raise several thousand acres of wheat near Genoa, Colorado, and Mr. Wyckoff, who is secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Wheat Growers, was invited as a representative for the wheat growers' magazine. Josh rode along and got to take the new Magnum for a "spin" around the test tract outside the hotel.

The Magnum tractor line of two-wheel-drive tractors in the 130 to 195 PTO horsepower range represents a totally new approach to tractor design and manufacturing.

At the time of their merger, CASE and IH promised a new line of tractors that would set a new level of quality and performance.

To keep that commitment, the company invested \$450 million to rebuild its two-wheel tractor assembly line at Racine, to make the Magnum line a reality.

Magnum's key features include a large displacement, 505-cubic inch turbocharged engine; an 18-speed full powershift transmission and optional six-speed creeper (to let you operate as slow as .5 mph and provide full power) for a total of 24 speeds; and a new cab—with lots of glass and knobs and handles and a computer.

All tractors have the computer-aided designed and manufactured 6T-830 turbocharged diesel engine. This new design uses 25 percent fewer parts than comparable engines and has a high degree of parts commonality with engines in other CASE IH tractors.

A tilt hood, service door and easily removable panels makes it easy for you to get to the entire engine.

An 18-speed full powershift transmission provides smooth, close-ratio shifting throughout the entire range. The single-lever, on-the-go shift control provides no-clutch shifting from forward to reverse speeds and start-up capability in any gear.

A totally electronic hitch control provides complete operator command including a raise/lower rocker switch that automatically lifts and returns implements to pre-set working depth.

The new cab incorporates the latest in ergonomic design. With more than 47 square feet of glass, the cab provides unparalleled visibility. Even the exhaust stack is out of view from the driver's seat.

One of the first things you'd notice

about Magnum is the hood slopes down at the front end of the tractor and thus creates even greater visibility of the field.

To maximize tractor performance and efficiency, Magnum tractors offer an advance monitoring and instrumentation system—the CASE IH Intelligence Center II.

This sophisticated system can monitor and display several functions simultaneously, such as engine rpm, wheel slip and ground speed. The system also incorporates an optional radar true ground speed sensor.

An additional feature is a programmable service indicator that enhances tractor maintenance monitoring.

As CASE IH president Jerry Green stated, "Magnum will set the future industry standard of performance, efficiency and operator comfort." ...



Josh took the new tractor through its paces and even posed for other ag editors who were on hand to get pictures of the media event.

The National FUTURE FARMER

FFA In Action

National Officers In Action



President Kevin Eblen welcomed the new Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, Ms. Bonnie Guilton, to a tour of the FFA Center and a briefing about the organization by the officers and staff.



Jayme Feary had the assignment to give the major address at the Oklahoma State FFA Convention. You may have heard a national officer this summer because at least one was at every state's convention.



Kevin Yost, left, national secretary and Kevin Eblen, president, presented a plaque to a past national officer, Congressman Larry Craig of Idaho, who spoke at the annual state presidents' conference. The luncheon audience also included participants from an alumni workshop and a state adult leaders' workshop.

Heroic FFA Members Save Lives of Two Women

What began as a routine trip to the Madison Hospital turned into a nightmare for two women from Lake Preston, South Dakota, in May. However, the nightmare was short-lived, due to the heroics of two Arlington FFA members.

Darren Larsen, a junior at Arlington High School, had been fishing in a slough about 1 1/2 mile south of Highway 81 for only about five minutes when he saw what he thought was a car "messing around on the gravel" on the part of the highway that had been upgraded last year. He quickly ascertained that the car was not "messing around" but very much in trouble, as he saw it go over the side of the bank and disappear into the water...which measures approximately 14-17 feet in depth.

Darren lost no time in dropping his fishing pole and jumping into his nearby pickup, to head to the location of the mishap. In a matter of seconds, he had pulled off his boots, jumped into the slough and began swimming toward a woman who was yelling for help. He shouted at a motorist who had also stopped, that he could use some help but the motorist, from Delmont, shouted back that he couldn't swim and would go for help.

In the meantime, Elaine Steffensen, who lives just one mile north of the slough, had heard the cries for help, summoned her husband Wenzel and the

two were on their way to scene. They were intercepted by the Delmont motorist and quickly turned around to get their boat and call for additional help.

Without waiting for further instructions, after hearing of the plight, the Steffensen's son Travis, a sophomore FFA member, jumped on his three-wheeler and "high tailed it" to the slough. When he arrived, Darren was half-way to shore with Delaine Hookie, who could not swim, and shouted for Travis to help Mrs. Hookie's daughter Ranae Dement, who was fighting for her life over 50 feet from shore and was nine months pregnant.

By the time Travis reached her, she was completely submerged, but he grabbed her and started swimming for shore with all his might.

It didn't take long for either woman to cough up the lake water and soon they were resting as comfortably as possible alongside the road, awaiting the rescue squads, who were summoned by the Steffensens when they went back to get their boat.

The boat did not have to be used thanks to the two youths, but the ambulance took the women to their original destination as Ranae had been experiencing labor pains throughout the day.

Ranae was kept at the Madison Hospital overnight with what later was confirmed as false labor and her mother

was able to go home shortly after midnight. The incident had occurred at approximately 9 p.m. According to Mrs. Hookie, "The boys save our lives, there's no doubt about it. There's just no words (to say thanks)." (*From the Arlington Sun*)

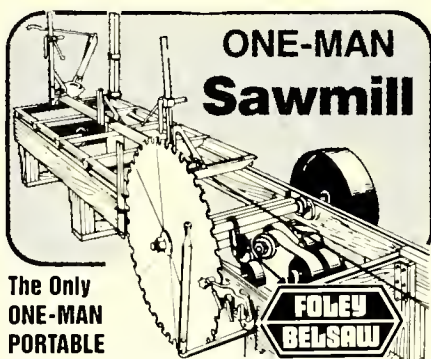
Supper, Speeches and Swimming

The Westmoreland, Kansas, Chapter held an evening of summer fun for the local FFA members and guests.

The members started the evening with a cookout at Advisor Scheer's home. This allowed time for the members to visit with incoming freshmen and other special guests about the various projects the local FFA chapter had going. We also involved parents, advisory council members and administration in the cookout activities.

Following the meal, the group moved to the high school vo-ag building for two speakers on leadership development. Leslie Marteney, northeast district president and president of the St. George, Kansas, Chapter, presented a slide show on the Washington Conference Program. She explained the many opportunities offered to her through the program and encouraged all FFA members to work toward attending the conference.

(Pick up the ACTION on Page 54)



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FFA In Action

The second speaker was State President Justin McKee, who spoke to the group about the optimism in agriculture today, the bright future for agriculture graduates from high school and college and the vast opportunities available through the vocational youth organization. Justin finished his portion of the program with a verse of the famous Auctioneer's Song.

To complete the evening, the group traveled to a local recreational area to swim. *(Tim Manges, Reporter)*

Summer Session

On the 13th and 14th of July the Kuna, Idaho, Chapter took time out of their busy summer schedules to participate in the chapter's annual leadership retreat.

Every year, around this time, the Kuna FFA gathers a delegation of members and takes a short trip up to Silver Creek Plunge. This year the group consisted of 20 members and our two advisors Dan Sample and Scott Robertson.

The main goals of the trip were to schedule and plan this coming year's meetings, get the chapter committees organized and to inform the new officers and committee chairmen of their responsibilities and to plan their goals for the upcoming year.

This year the chapter succeeded in doing just that, with some time left over for play. Some took advantage of the nearby creek to catch up on their fishing, while others went swimming in the hot springs pool. *(Amy VanNortwick, Scrapbook Reporter)*

Cajun Rice Threshing

For the past three years, the Midland FFA Chapter in Louisiana has been presenting a rice-threshing demonstration in conjunction with Louisiana's International Rice Festival in the neighboring town of Crowley in October. The event takes place on the Five-Oaks Farm in Lyons Point, owned by Mr. Steve Landry, just a few miles south of Crowley. Hundreds of visitors from across Louisiana, the United States and even a few from foreign countries come to visit this unique exhibition.

The FFA members involved in the project want to re-live the past when rice harvesting and threshing were much less mechanized than it is today. Work for FFA is divided into seven major areas; safety, admission, wagons, baggers, millers, concessions and publicity. A firm work schedule is arranged and



The demonstration is observed by hundreds of spectators including many dignitaries from the international Rice Festival and leaders in the rice industry.

instructions are given to all members.

Equipment used is all authentic, some dating back to the 1920s and is still in perfect condition. All labor is done on a volunteer basis by Midland FFA members, parents and area farmers.

The 30 acres of the 1986 crop were cut with binders and bundled approximately six weeks before the actual threshing demonstration so the grain could naturally dry out in the field. Next, the workers picked up the bundles of rice and placed them on wagons drawn by old-model tractors. These wagons transported the rice to the threshing machines. At this point, the threshing machines separated the rice from the straw. After the truck was loaded, the rice was sent to a local mill. Samples of rice were also milled and sold at the demonstration site. *(Delonda Weekley, Reporter)*

They Collect March Money in February

Each year for the past ten years, the Colfax, Washington, FFA and FHA chapters have cooperatively raised money for the National March of Dimes. We conduct a door-to-door drive in our community early in February each year and hold a "blanket toss" at a home basketball game.

Our FFA chapter has been recognized as the top contributor among all the chapters in our state for the past four consecutive years. Our ten-year grand total to the March of Dimes is \$9,119.65. *(Fred M. Cockle, Advisor)*

Farm Visits

The FFA chapter at the Telegraph Road Learning Center in Wilmington, Delaware, is comprised of urban students who have been placed at this exceptional regional learning center and are enrolled in the vocational agriculture

program. As with most FFA chapters, the state fair serves as a focus for activities that culminate the school year.

In Delaware, the state fair is held in Harrington, making it a 1 1/2-hour trip for students from the Wilmington area. When the Telegraph Road students maintain the children's barnyard on Wednesday evening, it is difficult to get home and back to the fair again by 8 a.m. for our state association breakfast and FFA games.

However, a solution was found. Contact was made with the Woodbridge, Caesar Rodney and Milford Chapters, all close to the fair site. These chapters were able to locate members willing to share their homes with Telegraph Road members for the evening. This allowed our urban students to spend an evening with a member in the country and to participate in activities that previously were almost impossible. (Thomas M. Baker, Advisor)

FFA at 50

A capacity crowd of about 450 past and present FFA members, advisors, teachers, friends and supporters gathered in Perry, Georgia, last spring for an evening of fellowship and reminiscing for a 50th anniversary celebration.

Starting with a 6 p.m. dinner in the high school lunchroom, the program featured an array of speakers, all of whom in past years were affiliated with the chapter.

All gave nostalgic pep talks on the chapter's history and accomplishments, the FFA program in general and who was best in what.

Featured speaker was Perry's own State Representative Larry Walker, himself an active FFA'er during his high school years here. He was introduced by Riley Hunt, a middle years' chapter president.

Others giving remarks included the chapter's first Advisor Cohen Walker and lifetime FFA Advisor E. H. Cheek.

Cohen Walker presented charter memberships to attending members of the class of 1937. Of the 19 members of the first FFA still living, 16 were present. Wayne Parker, chapter president, gave honorary memberships to those present from the agriculture class of 1936.

David Mills, Houston County extension director, gave a special presentation for the Perry Chamber of Commerce for 50 years of service by the FFA.

Dinner music was provided by a

(Pick up the ACTION on Page 56)

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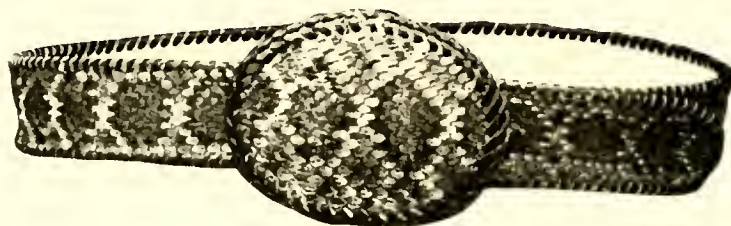
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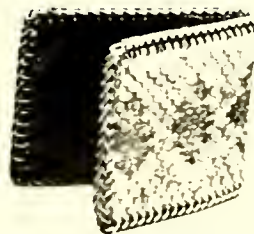
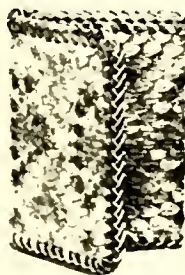


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FFA In Action

country and western band composed of former members of local FFA bands who met in musical reunion as well. A quartet from past state winners also performed.

The local newspaper, *The Houston Home Journal*, published a Salute to Perry FFA special souvenir edition.

Salesmen for State Alumni Camp

For 15 years, four days of the summer have been set aside for FFA members to attend Oklahoma's Annual FFA Alumni sponsored leadership camp.

This is the report from six members of the Moore FFA who attended the camp at Tulakogee Baptist Youth Camp in Wagoner, July 12-15.

Those attending were Lorraine Mattingly, Amy Rowland, Dana Collins, Gina Liguori, Danny Mathews and Matt Rowland.

To be eligible for camp each member was responsible for selling ten Oklahoma FFA Alumni memberships.

This year's state FFA officers did a tremendous job preparing and presenting camp activities such as an FFA olympics which consisted mainly of water sports. Our own Lorraine Mattingly sang in the talent show and was named overall winner.

Each evening a special presentation was made by a guest speaker including Spencer Tillman, former Oklahoma University running back; Cindy Blair, former National FFA Officer; and David Shaffer, former state FFA president.

Also there were numerous workshops, each designed to help the members gather information which they could take back to their own chapters to utilize. (Gina Liguori, Reporter)

Chapter Mom

To the Buckeye, Arizona, Chapter "Mom" stands for Mrs. Nancy Eaton.

On April 30, 1987, the Buckeye FFA awarded her with the Outstanding Community Service award for her dedication to the Buckeye FFA.

Mrs. Eaton first became involved with the local chapter when her son Jeff joined the vocational agriculture program as a freshman. As her son's interest in vocational agriculture and the FFA grew, so did Mrs. Eaton's.

Mrs. Eaton has helped many Buckeye FFA members to receive their State Farmer degrees, chapter and state proficiency awards as well as the American Farmer degree, with her typing skills.

Capitol Hill Conferences



All summer long FFA members from all states who were in Washington, D.C., for the WCP leadership sessions called on their congressmen and senators. Oklahoma members from six different counties were greeted with Oklahoma hospitality from Third District Congressman Wes Watkins while visiting the nation's capital during the Washington Conference Program.

When Mrs. Eaton's daughter Jennifer entered vocational agriculture, Mrs. Eaton volunteered to be a chaperone during the state leadership conference held at the university in Tuscon. (Lisa Loughhead, Reporter)

50th Banquet

The 50th annual Parent-Member Banquet for DeWitt Central, Iowa, Chapter was called to order at 6:47 p.m. by President Julie Tobey. Opening ceremonies were performed by the 1986-



FFA A-Float

The Belton, Texas, FFA decided to enter a float in the Belton Fourth of July parade this year. Our chapter had not been in the parade for more than ten years. At first, we didn't know what to do, but with only four days to put everything together, it was a great success. We couldn't have done it without teamwork. (Deanna Bonkowski, Reporter)

87 officer team.

It was a traditional opening like thousands of banquets every year, but it marked the half-century of success for vo-ag in DeWitt. The Clinton County Pork and Beef Producers provided the meat.

The business session of the evening got underway at 8:15 p.m. with a welcome and greeting given by Julie. Maureen Barber, state president and member of our chapter, gave a 20-minute presentation. Dan McGuire, Jill Jacobsen and Mark Lincoln gave the presentation of work program.

This year our chapter awarded three Honorary Chapter Farmer awards. Greg Henningsen gave a short speech on what the Alumni has done in the past year and presented five scholarships to seniors Kory Budinger, Deanna Gannon, Rick Schrader, Julie Tobey and Dan Wagener. Freshman Creed speaker Brian Petersen and sophomore Ann Feldpausch both gave their speeches.

Numerous awards were given out at the banquet this year. Bill Henriksen was named the Star Chapter Farmer and Ann Feldpausch was the Star Greenhand. Receiving Leadership pins were Lynn Wagemester, Ann Feldpausch, Mark Lincoln and Deanna Gannon. This year's Dekalb award winner was Deanna Gannon. Mr. Smicker received

a much needed answering machine from the retiring officers. Scholarship pins were presented to Cory Green, Ann Feldpausch, Mark Lincoln and Julie Tobey. Officer installation ceremonies were performed and the banquet was adjourned by the newly elected officers at 9:15. (Jim Campbell, Secretary)

Sign of Pride



The McDonald County, Missouri, FFA Chapter's special committee for BOAC has recently built and set up four signs such as the one pictured. The signs were designed to promote our county, our country's main industry and our FFA chapter as well. The committee members include Joey Cooley, chairman; Tina Smith, Dan Jones, Steve Campbell, Russel Thomas, Torrey Herd, Mandy Hobbs, Ricky Huston, Jason Ruddick, Bobby Davis, Shane Reece, Randy Cornell and Cory Keir.

Prom Safety



Members of the Talawanda, Ohio, FFA helped keep highway safety on everyone's mind during prom time this past year. Assistant Principal Joe Pytrin arranged for a severely wrecked auto to be on display in front of the high school the week of the prom. FFA members in the junior class painted and lettered two signs which read "Make Your Prom A Safe One." These two signs were then placed next to the wreck. Over 1,100 high school students and numerous people in the community witnessed the display. FFA members hope their small project had an effect as there were no accidents at the 1987 prom. (Jeff Peck, Reporter)



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Joke Page

A couple was leaving church after Sunday services. "Did you see that designer suit on the woman in front of us?" the wife asked. "And that hat on that woman across the aisle? And the frilly blue dress on the woman sitting to your left?"

"Well, no," the husband was quick to confess. "I'm afraid I dozed off."

She gave him a sharp look. "A lot of good church does you!"

Johnna Schmidt
Greenway, Arkansas

An old timer was brought in to testify in a slander suit involving two of his neighbors. "Tell me the exact conversation," said the attorney.

"I can't remember it all," answered the witness, "cept each one was callin' the other what they both is."

Alex Fink
Camas, Washington



"Why shouldn't Spot help?
It's going to be his."

Q: What is the Eskimos' national anthem?

A: Freeze a jolly good fellow.

Aaron Johnson
Winlock, Washington

Todd: "Shawn, where do all the watermelons go during the summer?"

Shawn: "I don't know."

Todd: "They go to John Cougar's Melon Camp."

Todd Moses
Bunkie, Louisiana

All day long the phone rang, then people would come by, stop and chat a while and the mother could not get anything finished. Tired and aggravated, she sat down to relax, turned to her husband and said, "I know this day has tried my patience. Sometimes I wish I had the patience of Job."

Her eight-year-old daughter looked up and said, "Why? Was he a doctor?"

Dewey Parks, Jr.
Gray, Kentucky

A little boy went for a summer visit to see his grandparents. Just before going to bed, the boy asked his grandfather to tell him a narrative.

"That's a tale," explained the boy. After the narrative, the boy asked his grandfather to extinguish the light. "That means to put out," the boy said.

"Sure, I'll get the light, but first you extinguish the cat and be careful not to step on its narrative."

Jason Baenen
Green Bay, Wisconsin

A man was talking to a friend about his wife's cooking. "I wouldn't say my wife is a bad cook," the man said, "but when she takes the aluminum foil off a TV dinner, she is throwing away the best part."

Joseph Savoy
Vidor, Texas

Mother Monster: "Do you think we should take Junior to the zoo?"

Father Monster: "Certainly not. If the zoo wants him, they can come and get him."

Jay Barrutia
Shoshone, Idaho

Q: A Yugo is a two-door Yugoslavian car, what is a four-door car?

A: Awego.

Chris Holcombe
Florence, Alabama

One day a fly flew into a cow's ear. The next day, there was a fly found in the milker. I guess that proves what goes in one ear, comes out the udder.

Shannon Zimdars
Watertown, Wisconsin

Clerk: "The gown will be \$200, Madam. I guarantee a fit."

Customer: "I, too, guarantee a fit when my husband learns of the price."

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

A hunter out West left camp to track a grizzly bear and was gone four days. He finally returned without the grizzly.

"Did you lose the trail?" asked a pal.

"No, I kept on the trail."

"Then why didn't you get the bear?"

"Well, the footprints were getting too fresh, so I quit."

Christina Head
Liberty, Texas

Charlie, the Greenhand



"Mom, what time did Dad want the irrigation system shut off?"

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Stock #8114

Natural backcut boa foot, with matching belt #GL84222 and matching buckle #M7090H

Cowboy shown, wearing boot Stock #6421, Truckee red retan foot and top

